

THE ASYLUM

Quarterly Journal of the
Numismatic Bibliomania Society

Volume XVIII, No. 1

Winter 2000

CONTENTS

| | |
|--|----|
| President's Message | 2 |
| by Wayne Homren | |
| Editorial | 3 |
| by E. Tomlinson Fort | |
| Letters to the Editor | 3 |
| The Development of the Coin Album (Part 5) | 4 |
| by David M. Lange | |
| Who's Who in Numismatics (You Can't Judge a Book by It's Title) | 18 |
| by Pete Smith | |
| The Printer's Devil: Where Have All The Core References Gone? . . . | 22 |
| by Joel J. Orosz | |
| News from the Net. | 25 |
| by Pete Smith | |
| Index to <i>The Asylum</i> Volumes XVI to XVII (1998-1999) | 27 |
| by William Malkmus | |

"If a man is even moderately enthusiastic, and has actually collected a sufficient number of books to make a foundation of a library as a specific subject, he, by general understanding among his co-sufferers, has been inoculated with the disease and has a case of *Bibliomania*, the severity of which increases or decreases in direct proportion to the patient's enthusiasm and self-sacrifice to attain the end he has in view. Friends of the patient look upon him possibly with sympathy, but always with an eye of pity, and members of his family speak of his trouble with indignation and sometimes shame, if his excesses in purchasing rare books, even though entirely within his subject, encroach in any way upon the normal activities of the family and upon the expenses connected therewith."

WILLIAM L. CLEMENTS
1861-1934



NUMISMATIC BIBLIOMANIA SOCIETY OFFICERS

President

Wayne Homren
1810 Antietam St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15206
whomren@coinlibrary.com

Vice-President

Tom Sheehan,
P. O. Box 1477,
Edmonds, WA 98020,
twsheeh@attglobal.net

Secretary-Treasurer

Dave Hirt
5911 Quinn Orchard Rd.
Frederick, MD 21704

Members of the Board

Bob Metzger, P.O. Box 307, Lakeville, MN 55044-0307, ultrabob@gte.net
Larry Mitchell, Box 902317, Palmdale, CA 93590, numislit@yahoo.com
Bill Murray, 7400 Crestway, Apt. 1423, San Antonio, TX 78239, billmur13@aol.com
Joel Orosz, 4300 Old Field Trail, Kalamazoo, MI 49008, jjo@wkkf.org
Scott Rubin, P.O. Box 6885, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648, P.ScottRubin@worldnet.att.net

The Asylum

Vol. XVIII, No. 1 Consecutive Issue No. 70 Winter 2000

Editor: E. Tomlinson Fort

P.O. Box 5035
Pittsburgh, PA 15206
Etfort@aol.com

Editor-in-Chief: Bob Metzger

P.O. Box 307
Lakeville, MN 55044-0307
ultrabob@gte.net

Advertising Rates

| | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Full Page | \$60.00 |
| Inside Front, Inside or Outside Back Cover | 65.00 |
| Half Page | 35.00 |
| Quarter Page | 20.00 |
| Classified | 10¢ per word, minimum \$ 2.50 |

The Asylum is published quarterly. Manuscripts sent to the editor should be accompanied, if possible, by a Macintosh (preferred) or PC (if necessary) compatible disk. For more information please contact the editor.

N.B.S. Membership: \$15.00 annual dues in North America, \$20.00 elsewhere. Members receive all issues of the current volume. Requests for membership should be submitted to the Secretary-Treasurer.

President's Message

by Wayne Homren

Welcome to the first issue of *The Asylum* for the year 2000.

Included with this issue is an envelope for payment of your yearly dues. Our membership fee has remained unchanged for at least ten years, and is one of the better bargains in numismatics. Please return your payment promptly – only paid-up members will receive the remaining issues for this year.

Please note: If you've already sent in your year 2000 dues, don't worry that there's been a mistake – these envelopes are included with every copy mailed.

These are interesting times for the hobby of numismatics. In the United States, we are seeing a resurgence in interest in coin collecting among the general public. This is due to two factors. The first is the circulating commemorative state quarter series. The second is the new "gold" Sacajawea dollar coin. We can see the evidence first-hand at local and national coin shows, where kids and adults alike are flooding the aisles in search of coins and coin supplies in numbers not seen since the 1960's.

Will this resurgence of interest boost the ranks of numismatic bibliophiles further down the road? Certainly, the more people

interested in numismatics in general, the more people have the opportunity to become aware of the great bounty of information and entertainment available from numismatic literature.

What can we do to further expose new collectors to our sideline? The Internet is one method, and through the NBS web site and E-Sylum mailing list, we're reaching new people every week. Numismatic literature presentations at major coin shows are another method, and NBS has had a presence at recent ANA and FUN shows, and is making plans for this summer's ANA in Philadelphia.

A final important venue for reaching collectors is covered in detail in Joel Orosz's Printer's Devil column: "Where Have All The Core References Gone?" In the article, he correctly notes that all of the major references on American numismatic literature have been out of print for some time, and are difficult to obtain. His article is a call to arms for numismatic bibliophiles and publishers— we would be missing a marvelous opportunity to reach and develop future bibliophiles if these key resources are not made more readily available. Please let us know your thoughts on the matter.

Editorial

by E. Tomlinson Fort

After my first issue as editor of this esteemed journal I feel like quoting Pompey the Great after he lost the Battle of Pharsalus: "Oops." Pompey has been quoted many times since then. However, after my last editorial when I said that I would make mistakes I did not mean on the front cover! My sincerest apologies must go to Joel Orosz, who was the author of the Printer's Devil article awarding the "Shammies." (Hey Joel,

after this mistake is there any chance of me getting a "Shammie" to hang over the fireplace?).

This issue is a bit later than I had hoped. This is both due to changes at my "real" job as well as the birth of my daughter Annamaria. Fortunately, the material for the next issue is at hand and it should be following within the next month. If not, maybe I can get two "Shammies" from Joel.

New Members

Bernarol Brochier, St. Francis,
Guadaloupe, French West
Indies

Marc D. Stern, Pleasantville,
N.Y.

Steven Epstein, Miami, Fl.

Mark Ferguson, Oshkosh, Wis.

Harry T. Kubasek, Middletown,
N.Y.

Jim McGuigan, North Versailles,
Pa.

Adrian Salinas, Monterray,
Mexico

David J. Stone, Jr. Phoenix,
Ariz

Vicken Vegparian, Tom's River,
N.J.

Robert Dunfield, Ventura, Ca.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Mr. Fort,

I just received a copy of the 1999 Winter Edition of *The Asylum*. I noticed the item about Frank in the nursing home and I wish to give you some corrected info for the next issue.

He was in the hospital last July and in the nursing home for three weeks last August, but since then he has been in his

own home and doing fairly well. He does get around with a walker and a cane and his eyes prevent him from reading; otherwise we go day by day. So you might let his friends know a card or phone call would be welcome (and many of his friends do stop by).

With best wishes,
Laurese Byrd Katen.

The Development of the Coin Album

Part Five

by David W. Lange

Previous installments of this series explored Whitman's line of coin folders, both the familiar blue editions and some less remembered series. Part Five will examine the company's line of albums, which now dates back some forty years.

As the coin hobby matured during the 1950s, a demand developed for coin albums which were more sophisticated than the simple folders which had dominated the market since the '30s. Advanced collectors had long been using the National Albums produced by Wayte Raymond, and his death in 1956 didn't prevent the manufacture and marketing of these products by others under the title *American Album*.

Whatever their virtues, the Raymond albums looked old fashioned and were clumsy to use. When the Coin and Currency Institute launched a new series of albums under the banner "Library of Coins" in 1958, these became an immediate success and prompted Whitman into responding with its own new product.

Whitman's "Bookshelf" line of albums, though copyrighted 1960, were first offered in February of the following year via double-page advertisements in *The Numismatist* and other publications. These ads heralded "The Finest Quality Coin Albums

Ever Made . . ."

They were handsome, with their pages staple bound within a booklike cover (what Whitman described as "stub-hinge construction"). Each page was of very thick cardboard ("dura-board") overlaid with royal blue leatherette paper printed in gold. The covers were of similar appearance. The royal blue being reminiscent of the early Whitman folders, which by this time had evolved into navy blue. Titles were printed in a Roman font on both the front cover and the spine, the latter also including a catalog number printed horizontally. The front cover was further decorated with an attractive pattern of intersecting diamonds, each containing a star. Clear acetate slides secured each row of coins within their respective pages. For large coins, each slide covered just one row, while two or three rows of smaller coins could be held by a single slide.

To further compete with the popular Library of Coins albums, the Bookshelf line included a listing of dates and mintage figures in black on the inside front cover along with a sketchy history of the series. This paste-down was a slightly lighter shade of blue to contrast with the outside cover and the pages. The inside back cover presented a listing of available titles.

Also in response to the Library of Coins albums, the Whitman line included a wide variety of titles. In addition to the obvious series from the 20th Century, albums were offered for Seated Liberty coins from half dimes through half dollars, Capped Bust Halves, half cents and large cents. Though the Bookshelf albums for coppers accommodated only one coin per date, while their more sophisticated competitor featured all of the then-current "Red Book varieties."

The Whitman folders for Canadian coins had sold reasonably well following their introduction in the early 1950s. Therefore, these titles were also included in the Bookshelf line from the outset.

Whitman hoped that British coins would become popular with American collectors. In 1961 it added several such titles to its line of folders and albums. For the Bookshelf albums, the only series which were offered by date were the bronze farthings, halfpennies and pennies commencing 1860. The few remaining British titles were exclusively for type collecting beginning with the coinage of Queen Victoria in 1837.

Despite a marketing campaign that included a handy guide book, sales of the British titles were disappointing. The same proved true in 1963 for the Mexican type set album and in the following year for type sets of Panamanian and Philippine coins. Even worse was the

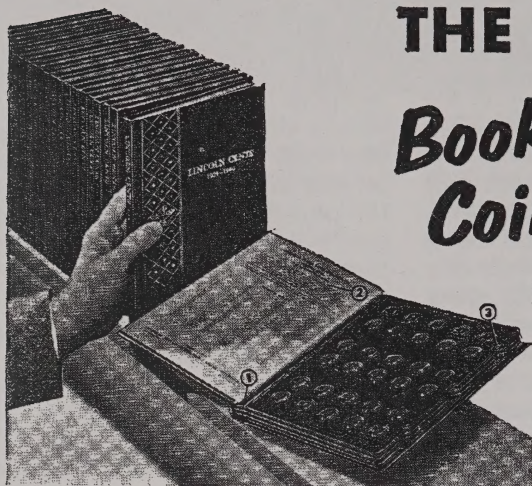
response in 1965 to the pair of Australian type set albums.

The fault was not entirely Whitman's since the coin hobby took a nosedive toward the end of 1964. The early 1960s had proved to be the highwater mark for popular collecting by date and mint, and this segment of the hobby has never regained its earlier levels of activity. Things remained slow for the next two or three years, and most manufacturers of coin albums dropped by the wayside.

Whitman, the most prominent player in this field, remained but with a scaled-down operation. The production of all but the most popular titles ceased, and albums for most early USA and foreign coins are known only in this first edition.

These are easily identified by the distinctive logo in use from their inception through 1967. It consists of a gold eagle that was essentially taken from the Great Seal of the USA. Upon the eagle's chest is an oval badge reading Whitman.

A few minor changes occurred during the course of this first edition reflecting concurrent changes in the coinage. After the Franklin Half Dollar series ended in 1963, this termination date was added to the title. About the same time a new album was added for Kennedy Half Dollars. Early examples of the Washington Quarter Dollar album are labeled "1932-", while those manufactured after the introduction of clad coinage are marked "1932-1964." This



THE BEAUTIFUL Bookshelf Coin Albums

the World's
Most Distinctive
Coin Albums

Genuine board covers,
royal blue with gold-
stamped titles front and
binding edge.

SIZE: 7" x 8 3/4"

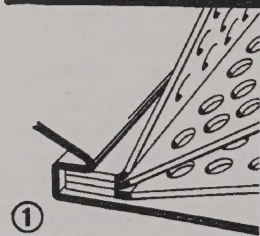
| | |
|---------------|--------|
| 2 Page Albums | \$2.00 |
| 3 Page Albums | \$2.75 |
| 4 Page Albums | \$3.50 |



This symbol is the "hallmark" of excellence in the numismatic field. When you see the Whitman eagle you can be assured of enduring quality. The newest Whitman creation, the Bookshelf Coin Albums, proudly display this symbol of prestige and excellence.

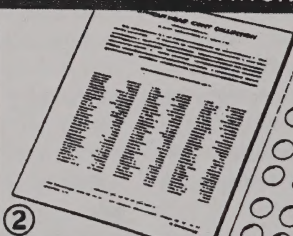
Whitman Bookshelf Coin Albums will cover all U. S. coins plus a series for Canadian coins.

FEATURES LIKE THESE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR
WHITMAN'S ENVIABLE REPUTATION FOR QUALITY:



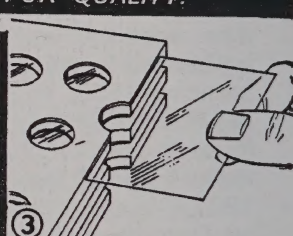
EXCLUSIVE STUB-HINGE CONSTRUCTION

Rugged and yet flexible, stub-hinge construction prevents stress and strain. Pages are securely hinged, open wide and lie flat.



HISTORICAL INFORMATION AND MINT RECORDS

The inside front cover of each volume gives interesting detailed information about the coins it houses. There is also a complete mint record together with a mint mark reference.



SEE COINS FROM BOTH SIDES

Pages are sturdy dura-board with crystal-clear acetate slides to give two-side visibility and protection. Thumb notches make it easy to "open windows" for insertion or removal of coins.

WHITMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

prompted the introduction of new albums for the clad pieces. Though these didn't debut until the second edition. (The terminology of "first edition," "second edition," etc. is mine alone and was not used by Whitman to describe its products. No mention of any changes was ever made in its advertising or on the albums themselves.)

During the first edition period (1961-67) Whitman accepted a number of commissions for custom-designed albums. These are similar in construction and general appearance to the regular line, but they feature very specialized titles.

A complete listing follows this text, but some are worth noting here. Among the custom albums still encountered at coin shops and shows are the three series ordered by the Presidential Art Medal Company. (Medals enjoyed a speculative vogue during the early-mid 1960s, only to end up being worth little more than their bullion value today.)

Beginning in 1962, this company produced three series of medals honoring the presidents of the USA, the various states and the signers of the Declaration of Independence. These are beautiful medals in high relief, so high in fact that the plastic slides were bulged outward by them.

The Whitman Bookshelf albums for these medals, while not rare in absolute terms, are among the ones most seldom found in decent condition. The great weight of the medals, their short-lived popularity and the

aforementioned bulging conspired to wear out these albums very quickly. When found in nice condition, they are extremely attractive, since they feature the Presidential Art logo and customized graphics.

Albums of the second edition were actually produced concurrently with those of the first, and they are distinguished by a single feature. Beginning around 1965, Whitman adopted a rating system for all of its folders and albums.

What was being rated was the degree of difficulty in completing a series of coins. The easiest sets to complete, such as Lincoln Cents from 1941 onward, bore a solid star and were catalogued as "Basic" collections. Those a bit more challenging, such as Liberty Standing Quarters, were marked with a skeletal star and designated "Secondary." "Advanced" collections carried no star and are thus indistinguishable from first edition albums except for the fact that their inside back covers include this rating system within the listing of available titles.

There is one feature of the second edition titles that does offer an additional, though quite subtle, distinction. This is the change in cover color from royal blue to navy blue, which brought the albums into conformity with the folders. The second edition was produced as late as 1972, several years after the introduction of the third, probably as a means of using up already printed component parts. Such thrift is a charming but sometimes

confusing factor in attributing Whitman folders and albums.

New with the second edition were titles that commenced with the introduction of clad coinage. When the manufacture of proof coins shifted to San Francisco, creating a new series of proof-only "S" mint issues, these titles were offered both with and without the proofs. This satisfied the needs of those seeking absolute completeness, as well as those who were collecting strictly from circulation.

Since this development occurred in 1968, just as the third edition albums were being introduced, the only second edition title I've seen that includes the proof-only coins is the one for Roosevelt Dimes. It must be considered a rarity, as similar albums for other series are found only within the third edition.

When Western Publishing bought Whitman around 1967, a new logo was adopted for all of the Whitman products. It featured a skeletal globe with an oval badge superimposed at the center reading Whitman. This logo remained in use right through Whitman's purchase by Golden Books in the mid-1990s and may be retained now that the company is part of St. Martin's Press.

Third edition albums are easily distinguished by this new logo. In the initial printing, the badge was solid, but a modified version having a skeletal oval was adopted very quickly. Albums from the first printing are very rare, and I know of just a few titles in this format.

Third edition albums also have somewhat slicker covers that lack the rich graining used previously. As the listing of titles declined in response to the slower coin market, their space on the inside back cover was filled in part by a listing of Whitman guide books.

Another feature of the newer albums is that they reflect the gradually declining quality of Whitman's products during the 1970s. As paper products rose in cost, the company must have begun cutting corners. The pages became thinner, the bindings less durable and the holes more sloppily cut. Slightly frayed holes and loose page coverings are common in these albums, and they're far less desirable for storing coins than those of the first edition.

Rising costs were also reflected in the price increases experienced by these albums during the 17 years that they were marketed. The price of each album was always predetermined by the number of pages it contained. When first offered in 1961, a two-page album was priced at \$2.00, a three-page album at \$2.75 and those having four pages at \$3.50. Since these albums were rarely advertised after the 1960s, I don't have any published figures for their later prices, though I have found a number of third edition albums bearing their original price stickers. I believe their final prices to have been \$3.75, \$4.75 and \$5.75, respectively. I remember paying these figures during the early-mid 1970s.

With the advent of the third edition, all of the titles for Seated Liberty coins were dropped, along with all foreign titles except Canadian. Of the early USA titles, only half cents, large cents and Bust Halves remained in production.

New titles reflected changing trends within the coin hobby. Silver art bars were a big fad during 1972-73, and an album for these was added. Also new was the *Around-The-World Coin Collection* which featured two volumes. An album was added for Eisenhower Dollars in 1972, but this line of albums didn't survive to see the Anthony Dollar. One area of specialization that survived throughout was token collecting, though the exact titles of these albums did vary over time.

The January 1979 issue of *The Numismatist* included a press release from the Whitman Coin Products division of Western Publishing. This announced the introduction of a new line of albums called the "Classic." The old Library of Coins line had gone out of production, and Whitman's main competitor was Dansco.

Reflecting this threat, the Whitman Classic albums incorporated the most important features of the Dansco "Supreme" albums. In place of the old stub-hinge construction, which sometimes resulted in the covers detaching from the pages, Whitman used the now-common hinge-post binding. In addition to solving the cover detachment problem, this offered the option

of removing and adding pages as needed to keep current issues up to date. Eighteen basic titles were offered at first, with a couple dozen more having been added since that time. The Whitman Classic remains in production to the current day, with a new title for the 50-states quarter program having just been announced.

Graphically, the Classic is easily recognized as a Whitman product. The covers and pages feature the familiar leatherette finish. The same color scheme of gold printing on navy blue is employed. A single logo consisting of a federal shield has been employed throughout the twenty-plus years of production. Gold transfer type is available for adding new dates or for customizing one's albums.

With the exception of half cents and large cents, no albums are available for series earlier than those overlapping the 19th and 20th Centuries. Several type coin albums are offered, along with date series of recent Canadian coins. Newer titles include those for casino tokens and the American Eagle series of gold and silver bullion coins. An album for Whitman's Red Book and Blue Book souvenir medals (issued 1986-97) will probably go out of production, since this series was discontinued by Golden Books and is not likely to be revived by St. Martin's Press.

Some varieties have been created when a series was transitioned into a second volume, such as happened for Lincoln Cents in 1996. The first volume

(catalog #9112) exists with both titles "1909-" and "1909-1995."

Classic albums are generally quite appealing, though they lack the heavy construction of the earlier Bookshelf albums. The cardboard is much thinner, and heavy coins such as silver dollars will cause the pages to sag a bit. Another feature I find disappointing is that the company will not cut custom pages to make a series end evenly. In other words, the same number and configuration of holes appears on each page, even though this causes some series to end in mid-page. The older line of albums left no vacant holes, and this attribute is sorely missed.

Priced initially between \$5.25 and \$9.25, these albums have risen in cost to where most retail between \$18.00 and \$30.00.

I have always favored both

the appearance and quality of Bookshelf albums over that of their successors and competing products. I've found also that I can still buy unused Bookshelf albums on the secondary market for less than the price of new Classic albums. For those rare instances in which I still place coins within albums, I always use the Whitman Bookshelf line. This is simply a personal choice, and I collect all of these products in their entirety as part of my coin album hobby.

The following list includes all titles known to me for each of the three Whitman Bookshelf editions described above. There is just a single edition of the Whitman Classic. The albums whose titles have not been confirmed are marked (†).

WHITMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY - RACINE, WI BOOKSHELF

(All editions have blue leatherette covers with gold lettering and are 7" wide x 9" high).

FIRST EDITION - royal blue, with eagle logo and no rating star, produced circa 1961-67

| <i>Number</i> | <i>Title</i> |
|---------------|---|
| 9400 | <i>Half Cents 1793-1857</i> |
| 9401 | <i>Large Cents 1793-1857</i> |
| 9402 | <i>Indian Cents 1856-1909</i> |
| 9405 | <i>Lincoln Cents 1909-1940</i> |
| 9406 | <i>Lincoln Cents 1941-</i> |
| 9441 | <i>Cents Miscellaneous</i> |
| 9436 | <i>Complete Sets Of 2c, 3c, Shield 5c, 20c Pieces</i> |
| 9407 | <i>Liberty Nickels 1883-1912</i> |
| 9408 | <i>Buffalo Nickels 1913-1938</i> |
| 9410 | <i>Jefferson Nickels 1938-</i> |
| 9410 | <i>Jefferson Nickels 1938-1964</i> |
| 9442 | <i>Nickels Miscellaneous</i> |
| 9411 | <i>Liberty Seated Half Dimes 1837-1973</i> |

- 9437 *Liberty Seated Dimes 1837-1891*
- 9412 *Liberty Dimes 1892-1916*
- 9413 *Mercury Dimes 1916-1945*
- 9414 *Roosevelt Dimes 1946-*
- 9443 *Dimes Miscellaneous*
- 9439 *Liberty Seated Quarters 1838-1865*
- 9440 *Liberty Seated Quarters 1866-1891*
- 9416 *Liberty Head Quarters 1892-1916*
- 9417 *Liberty Standing Quarters 1916-1930*
- 9418 *Washington Quarters 1932-*
- 9418 *Washington Quarters 1932-1964*
- 9444 *Quarters Miscellaneous*
- 9415 *Bust Type Halves 1807-1839*
- 9447 *Liberty Seated Halves 1839-1863*
- 9448 *Liberty Seated Halves 1864-1891*
- 9420 *Liberty Head Halves 1892-1906*
- 9421 *Liberty Head Halves 1907-1915*
- 9423 *Liberty Walking Halves 1916-1940*
- 9424 *Liberty Walking Halves 1941-1947*
- 9424 *Liberty Walking Halves 1940-1947 (Misprinted Cover And Spine)*
- 9425 *Franklin Halves 1948-*
- 9425 *Franklin Halves 1948-1963*
- 9422 *John F. Kennedy Halves 1964-*
- 9445 *Half Dollars Miscellaneous (†)*
- 9427 *Morgan Dollars 1878-1886*
- 9428 *Morgan Dollars 1887-1896*
- 9429 *Morgan Dollars 1897-1921*
- 9430 *Peace Dollars 1921-1935*
- 9426 *Trade Dollars 1873-1883*
- 9446 *Dollars Miscellaneous*
- 9434 *United States Type Set Small Coins*
- 9435 *United States Type Set Large Coins*
- 9453 *U. S. Gold Type Set 1 Dollar Through 20 Dollars*
- 9433 *Commemorative Type Set*
- 9449 *Modern Mint Set Collection*
- 9450 *Modern Proof Set Collection*
- 9432 *Year Sets*
- 9452 *Civil War Tokens*
- 9455 *Miscellaneous Tokens*
- 9456 *Miscellaneous Medals*

Canada

- 9500 *Canadian Large Cents 1858-1920*
- 9501 *Canadian Small Cents 1920-*
- 9502 *Canadian Five-Cent Silver 1858-1921*
- 9503 *Canadian Nickels 1922-*
- 9504 *Canadian Dimes 1858-*
- 9505 *Canadian 20 And 25 Cents 1858-1920*
- 9506 *Canadian Quarters 1921-*
- 9507 *Canadian Quarters Miscellaneous*
- 9508 *Canadian Halves 1870-1936*
- 9509 *Canadian Halves 1937-*

- 9510 *Canadian Halves Miscellaneous*
- 9511 *Canadian Dollars 1935-*
- 9529 *Canadian Dollars 1966-*
- 9512 *Canadian Dollars Miscellaneous*
- 9513 *Canadian Type Set Collection 1858-1952*
- 9513 *Canadian Type Set Collection*
- 9515 *Canadian Mint Set Collection*

Maritime Provinces

- 9514 *Newfoundland Type Collection*

Great Britain

- 9530 *British Farthings 1860-1901*
- 9531 *British Farthings 1902-1956*
- 9532 *British Halfpennies 1860-1901*
- 9533 *British Halfpennies 1902-1936*
- 9534 *British Halfpennies 1937-*
- 9535 *British Pennies 1860-1901*
- 9536 *British Pennies 1902-1936*
- 9537 *British Pennies 1937-*
- 9516 *Great Britain Minor Type Set*
- 9517 *Great Britain Silver Type Set*
- 9520 *Great Britain Type Set Victoria 1837-1901*

Australia

- 9527 *Australian Type Collection Bronze And Decimal Coins*
- 9528 *Australian Type Collection Silver Coins*

Mexico

- 9524 *Mexican Type Set Collection 1905-*

Panama

- 9518 *Panama Type Collection*

Philippines

- 9526 *Philippine Type Set Collection Spanish 1864-1897 United States 1903-1947 Republic 1947-*

World

- 9454 *Crowns Of The World*

Custom Titles

- I-100 *Israel Agorot-Pound Series I 1960-1968 (Produced For The R. P. Nielsen Company)*
- I-200 *Israel Commemoratives Volume 1 (Produced For The R. P. Nielsen Company)*
- 6501b *Dollar Gaming Tokens Minted By The Franklin Mint For Nevada Gaming Casinos 1965*
- *Seattle World's Fair Century 21 Exposition Official Medals*
- *Presidential Art Medals Volume 1 (Produced For The Presidential Art Medal Company)*
- *Presidential Art Medals Volume 2 (Produced For The Presidential Art Medal Company)*
- *Statehood Art Medals Volume 1 (Produced For The Presidential Art Medal Company)*

- *Statehood Art Medals Volume 2* (Produced For The Presidential Art Medal Company)
- *Declaration Signers Art Medals Volume 1* (Produced For The Presidential Art Medal Company)
- *Declaration Signers Art Medals Volume 2* (Produced For The Presidential Art Medal Company)
- *Declaration Signers Art Medals Volume 3* (Produced For The Presidential Art Medal Company)

Second Edition - Navy Blue, With Eagle Logo And Rating Star, Produced Circa 1965-72

- 9402 *Indian Cents 1856-1909*
- 9405 *Lincoln Cents 1909-1940*
- 9406 *Lincoln Cents 1941-*
- 9407 *Liberty Nickels 1883-1912 (†)*
- 9408 *Buffalo Nickels 1913-1938*
- 9410 *Jefferson Nickels 1938-1964*
- 9409 *Jefferson Nickels 1965-*
- 9413 *Mercury Dimes 1916-1945*
- 9414 *Roosevelt Dimes 1946-*
- 9587 *Roosevelt Dimes 1946- Including Proof-Only Issues*
- 9417 *Liberty Standing Quarters 1916-1930*
- 9418 *Washington Quarters 1932-1964*
- 9419 *Washington Quarters 1965-*
- 9423 *Liberty Walking Halves 1916-1940*
- 9424 *Liberty Walking Halves 1941-1947*
- 9425 *Franklin Halves 1948-1963*
- 9422 *John F. Kennedy Halves 1964-*
- 9427 *Morgan Dollars 1878-1886*
- 9428 *Morgan Dollars 1887-1896*
- 9429 *Morgan Dollars 1897-1921*
- 9430 *Peace Dollars 1921-1935*

Third Edition - Navy Blue, With Globe Logo And Rating Star, Produced Circa 1967-78 (First Printing, With "Whitman" Set Within A Solid Gold Oval, Circa 1967)

- 9401 *Large Cents 1793-1857*
- 9413 *Mercury Dimes 1916-1945*
- 9425 *Franklin Halves 1948-1963*
- 9428 *Morgan Dollars 1887-1896*
- 9430 *Peace Dollars 1921-1935*

(Second And Subsequent Printings, With "Whitman" Set Within A Skeletal Gold Oval, Circa 1968-78)

- 9400 *Half Cents 1793-1857*
- 9401 *Large Cents 1793-1857*
- 9402 *Indian Cents 1856-1909*
- 9405 *Lincoln Cents 1909-1940*

- 9406 *Lincoln Cents 1941-1958*
- 9585 *Lincoln Cents Memorial Design 1959-*
- 9441 *Cents Miscellaneous*
- 9407 *Liberty Nickels 1883-1912 (†)*
- 9408 *Buffalo Nickels 1913-1938*
- 9410 *Jefferson Nickels 1938-1964*
- 9409 *Jefferson Nickels 1965-*
- 9586 *Jefferson Nickels 1965- (Including Proof-Only Issues)*
- 9442 *Nickels Miscellaneous (†)*
- 9412 *Liberty Dimes 1892-1916*
- 9413 *Mercury Dimes 1916-1945*
- 9414 *Roosevelt Dimes 1946-*
- 9587 *Roosevelt Dimes 1946- (Including Proof-Only Issues)*
- 9443 *Dimes Miscellaneous*
- 9416 *Liberty Head Quarters 1892-1916*
- 9417 *Liberty Standing Quarters 1916-1930*
- 9418 *Washington Quarters 1932-1964*
- 9419 *Washington Quarters 1965-*
- 9588 *Washington Quarters 1965- (Including Proof-Only Issues)*
- 9444 *Quarters Miscellaneous (†)*
- 9415 *Bust Type Halves 1807-1839 (†)*
- 9420 *Liberty Head Halves 1892-1906 (†)*
- 9421 *Liberty Head Halves 1907-1915 (†)*
- 9423 *Liberty Walking Halves 1916-1940*
- 9424 *Liberty Walking Halves 1941-1947*
- 9425 *Franklin Halves 1948-1963 (†)*
- 9422 *John F. Kennedy Halves 1964-*
- 9589 *John F. Kennedy Halves 1964- (Including Proof-Only Issues)*
- 9445 *Half Dollars Miscellaneous*
- 9427 *Morgan Dollars 1878-1886*
- 9428 *Morgan Dollars 1887-1896 (†)*
- 9429 *Morgan Dollars 1897-1921*
- 9430 *Peace Dollars 1921-1935*
- 9590 *Eisenhower Dollars 1971-*
- 9590 *Eisenhower Dollars 1971-1976*
- 9446 *Dollars Miscellaneous*
- 9434 *United States Type Set Small Coins*
- 9435 *United States Type Set Large Coins*
- 9436 *Basic United States Type Set*
- 9433 *Commemorative Type Set (†)*
- 9450 *Modern Mint And Proof Sets (†)*
- 9432 *Year Sets*
- 9455 *Miscellaneous Tokens (†)*
- 9456 *Miscellaneous Medals*
- 9456 *Small Medals*
- 9458 *Silver Ingot Collection*

Canada

- 9500 *Canadian Large Cents 1858-1920*
- 9501 *Canadian Small Cents 1920- (†)*
- 9502 *Canadian Five-Cent Silver 1858-1921 (†)*
- 9503 *Canadian Nickels 1922-*

- 9504 Canadian Dimes 1858-
- 9505 Canadian 20¢ and 25¢ 1858-1936
- 9506 Canadian Quarters 1921- (†)
- 9507 Canadian Quarters Miscellaneous (†)
- 9508 Canadian Halves 1870-1936 (†)
- 9509 Canadian Fifty Cents 1937-
- 9510 Canadian Halves Miscellaneous (†)
- 9511 Canadian Dollars 1935-1967
- 9529 Canadian Dollars 1968-
- 9512 Canadian Dollars Miscellaneous (†)
- 9522 Canadian Type Set Collection Small Coins
- 9521 Canadian Type Set Collection Large Coins
- 9515 Canadian Mint Set Collection (†)

World

- 9459 *Around-The-World Coin Collection Volume 1*
- 9460 *Around-The-World Coin Collection Volume 2*

Whitman Classic

(All Have Navy Blue Leatherette Covers With Gold Lettering And Are 7-1/2" Wide X 9" High) First Edition - Produced 1978 To Date

- 9109 *Half Cents 1793-1857*
- 9110 *Large Cents 1793-1857*
- 9111 *Indian Cents 1856-1909*
- 9112 *Lincoln Cents 1909-*
- 9112 *Lincoln Cents 1909-1995*
- 9113 *Lincoln Cents 1996-*
- 9141 *Lincoln Cents 1959-*
- 9114 *Liberty Head Nickels 1883-1912*
- 9115 *Buffalo Nickels 1913-1938*
- 9116 *Jefferson Nickels 1938-*
- 9117 *Liberty Head Dimes 1892-1916*
- 9118 *Mercury Dimes 1916-1945*
- 9119 *Roosevelt Dimes 1946-*
- 9120 *Barber Quarters 1892-1916*
- 9121 *Liberty Standing Quarters 1916-1930*
- 9122 *Washington Quarters 1932-*
- 9122 *Washington Quarters 1932-1990*
- 9123 *Washington Quarters 1991-*
- 9124 *Barber Half Dollars 1892-1915*
- 9125 *Liberty Walking Half Dollars 1916-1947*
- 9126 *Franklin Half Dollars 1948-1963*
- 9127 *Kennedy Half Dollars*
- 9128 *Morgan Dollars 1878-1891*
- 9129 *Morgan Dollars 1892-1921*
- 9130 *Peace Dollars 1921-1935*
- 9131 *Eisenhower Dollars*
- 9149 *Anthony Dollars*
- 9139 *20th Century Type Collection*
- 9170 *U. S. Gold Type Collection*
- 9159 *U. S. Commemorative Half Dollars, Volume 1*
- 9160 *U. S. Commemorative Half Dollars, Volume 2*

- 9157 *United States Silver Eagles 1986-*
9173 *United States Gold Eagles 1986-*

Canada

- 9151 *Canadian Cents 1920-*
9152 *Canadian Five Cents 1922-*
9153 *Canadian Ten Cents 1911-*
9154 *Canadian Twenty-Five Cents 1937-*
9155 *Canadian Fifty Cents 1937-*
9156 *Canadian Dollars 1935-*
9156 *Canadian Dollars 1935-1990*
9171 *Canadian Dollars 1991-*

Miscellaneous

- 9150 *Silver Rounds*
9158 *Red & Blue Book Souvenir Medals 1986-*
9174 *Casino Tokens - Dollar Size*
9175 *Casino Tokens - Small Size*
9140 *Binder*
9148 *Classic Album Press Type*
9148-1 *Classic Album Press Type*

Get on Board with The E-Sylum
the weekly e-mail newsletter of the
Numismatic Bibliomania Society

Hundreds of bibliophiles around the U.S. and the world subscribe to this free publication, containing news and information about NBS and numismatic literature in general.

To subscribe, write to Wayne Homren at
whomren@coinlibrary.com
For more information, see the NBS web site at
<http://www.coinbooks.org/>

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Numismatic Bibliomania Society

David Hirt, Secretary-Treasurer

5911 Quinn Orchard Road

Frederick, MD 21704

- 9157 *United States Silver Eagles 1986-*
9173 *United States Gold Eagles 1986-*

Canada

- 9151 *Canadian Cents 1920-*
9152 *Canadian Five Cents 1922-*
9153 *Canadian Ten Cents 1911-*
9154 *Canadian Twenty-Five Cents 1937-*
9155 *Canadian Fifty Cents 1937-*
9156 *Canadian Dollars 1935-*
9156 *Canadian Dollars 1935-1990*
9171 *Canadian Dollars 1991-*

Miscellaneous

- 9150 *Silver Rounds*
9158 *Red & Blue Book Souvenir Medals 1986-*
9174 *Casino Tokens - Dollar Size*
9175 *Casino Tokens - Small Size*
9140 *Binder*
9148 *Classic Album Press Type*
9148-1 *Classic Album Press Type*

Get on Board with The E-Sylum
the weekly e-mail newsletter of the
Numismatic Bibliomania Society

Hundreds of bibliophiles around the U.S. and the
world subscribe to this free publication, containing
news and information about NBS
and numismatic literature in general.

To subscribe, write to Wayne Homren at
whomren@coinlibrary.com
For more information, see the NBS web site at
<http://www.coinbooks.org/>

Numismatic Bibliomania Society

PLEASE RETURN THIS ENVELOPE WITH YOUR DUES PAYMENT.

☐ \$15 North America

☐ \$20 Elsewhere

Payment must be by check or money order in U.S. dollars, payable to:

Numismatic Bibliomania Society

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State/Province: _____ Zip/Postal Code: _____ Country: _____

We publish names (but never addresses) of new members in *The Asylum*.

☐ Do not publish my name

We publish a weekly email newsletter called *The E-Sylum*

☐ Please enter my subscription to *The E-Sylum*

My email address is: _____

BASS FOUR

June 10, 2000 ~ Long Beach Convention Center

A FEW HIGHLIGHTS

1891 ANA *Official Publication No. 1* • Unpublished 1868 Manuscript on American Copper Coins • Photographs of Colonel Green's Eagles & Half Eagles • Ed. & Kenneth Lee's Notebook on California Fractional Gold • Harry Bass's Annotated Set of Breen Gold Monographs • Numerous Priced & Named Auction Sales • H. O. Granberg's Deluxe Adams-Woodin • 1869 & 1871 American Bond Detectors • Complete Sets of the *American Journal of Numismatics* and *The Numismatist* • 1881 Andrews • John Robinson's Subscription Copy of Crosby • Bound Sets of Classic American Auction Sales from the Fuld Library • Lyman Low's Annotated 1894 Betts • Lee's 1875 *Currency of the Confederate States of America* • Complete Sets of Three Mason Periodicals • Original Inventory of Newcomer's Colonials • 1852 Ormsby • Over Two Dozen Plated Chapman Sales, Including a Very Fine Henderson

Catalogue \$25.00 (\$15.00 to NBS Members)

GEORGE FREDERICK KOLBE **Fine Numismatic Books**

P. O. Drawer 3100 • Crestline, CA 92325-3100
Telephone: (909) 338-6527 • Fax: (909) 338-6980

email: NUMISLIT@COMPUSERVE.COM

web site: NUMISLIT.COM

ANA Life Member 2316

Who's Who in Numismatics (You Can't Judge a Book By It's Title)

by Pete Smith

In 1971 Lee Martin announced that he was collecting information for a work to be entitled *Who's Who in Numismatics* which would be published by Hewitt Brothers. I have been trying to track down a rumored early draft. I thought it might have important biographical information that would supplement my research. In 1994 I corresponded with Martin who reported that his research never got very far and the book was never published.

The 1994 disposition of the Katzen library promised treasures for collectors. With the catalog for the first sale of their library (sale #76) came the listing for their preceding sale (#75). A one line description caught my attention. It read "73. McGouldrick: *Who's Who in Numis.* 1974. 54pp. 5.00."

I did not remember seeing this item before. None of my friends had suggested it as a source for my research. The book must be very rare, dearly held or both. It is not listed in recent bibliographies by Clain-Stefanelli, Davis or Thomas. I thought the book might be a good addition to my reference library. I placed a bid above estimate and was pleased to learn my bid was successful.

The full title on the cover is *The Coin Dealer Directory Who's*

Who in Numismatics. Pages 1-3 include an "Advertisers Index." Listed in approximately alphabetical order are the names of 200 advertisers. Unlike most indexes, there were no page numbers. They would be helpful since listings on subsequent pages are in no particular order.

An article in the December 26, 1973, issue of *Coin World* announced publication of the book. Author McGouldrick said, "[I]t seems there are dealers coming out of the woodwork. Some will stay in business. Some will not. ... Deal with people who depend on numismatics for their living." His book was offered as a guide for the dealers who were established and reliable.

Many business directories require payment for space and are distributed only to subscribers. I suspect *The Coin Dealer Directory* is an example of that type of directory. Apparently McGouldrick's criteria for a dealer who was established and reliable was one whose check did not bounce.

The book is a listing of dealers under fifteen classifications. Apparently dealers who bought space were listed in the classifications of their choice with some listed more than once. Adam J. Cool was listed under Clubs and Organizations, Coin Supplies,

Medals and Tokens, and Silver Bars. McGouldrick was listed in his directory under the categories of Proof Coins, Silver Dollars U.S. and United States Coins.

I recognized names of a few dealers that I believe were significant in numismatics in 1974. These include Kamal Awash, Bebee's Inc., Bowers and Ruddy, Grover Criswell, and Hank Spangenberger. There were others who I would have expected to find in *Who's Who* in 1974. Among dealers not included were Jerry Cohen, Ben Douglas, Harry Forman, John J. Ford, Leon Hendrickson, Art Kagin, Jim Kelly, Abe Kosoff, Abner Kreisberg, Julian Leidman, Lester Merkin, Jess Peters, Norman Shultz, Harvey Stack and Charles Wormser. Perhaps McGouldrick did not consider them reliable.

Courts have determined that the "Who's Who" name is no longer the proprietary right of a single publisher. I have done research in more than a dozen references that include "Who's Who" in the title. All the others have biographical information. *Who's Who in Numismatics* has none.

It does have name, address and numismatic specialties. A typical listing covers one tenth of a page. Some listings were double the standard size. There are six such double listings for Italcambio, Inc. and five for MintAmerica, Inc. I note that Mr. Liliano Maso was listed as vice president for Italcambio and chief executive officer for

MintAmerica. His listings take the equivalent space of 22 single listings. Based on the space in the directory, these would appear to be the leading firms in the country.

I recall ads for Italcambio in *Coin World* offering "Money That is Art, Art That is Money." A typical ad from the early 1970's showed the "Naked Maja" (1970 Equatorial Guinea 100 Peseta) with full frontal nudity.

The book has a section for Clubs and Organizations. Included in the list are the Fort Pierce (Fla.) Coin Club, Indian Hill Coin Club, Lorain (Oh.) Numismatic Association, and Thief River Falls (Minn.) Coin Club. Among the clubs were the Italcambio Collectors Society and Mint America Collectors Society. They shared an address and P.O. box in Miami Florida. Not included on the list of clubs are the American Numismatic Association, American Numismatic Society, Civil War Token Society, Early American Coppers or Token and Medal Society.

Other numismatic dealer directories have been published. *The 1982 Numismatic Trade Directory* was announced in July 1981. Listings cost each dealer \$3.50. I have not seen it. *The Official Whitman (Coin Dealer Directory)* goes back to about 1988. *The Coin Dealer Newsletter* published a *Numismatic Dealer Directory* in at least 1990 and 1993. These directories did not promise any biographical information and did not provide any.

McGouldrick's book is identified as First Printing, First Edition. I would be interested to learn if there were later printings. I would also be curious to know how many copies were printed. I

wonder if it was distributed beyond those who purchased space. I also wonder if anyone else like me bought a copy expecting something more than what they received.

The Numismatic Bibliomania Society Membership Application

YES, I hereby apply for membership in the Numismatic Bibliomania Society. I understand that I will receive the Society's quarterly journal, *The Asylum*.

Name: _____

Street: _____

City : _____ **State:** ____ **Zip:** ____

Phone: _____

My collecting interests are: _____

Membership dues are \$15.00 in North America, \$20.00 elsewhere. Members receive all copies of the current volume of *The Asylum*.

Return application with payment to:

NUMISMATIC BIBLIOMANIA SOCIETY
DAVID HIRT, SECRETARY
5911 QUINN ORCHARD ROAD
FREDERICK, MD 21704

I hereby make application for membership in the Numismatic Bibliomania Society, subject to the bylaws of the organization.

Signature of Applicant

Date

The Wayne Anderson Collection of 18th Century Tokens and References

- Nearly 400 lots of high grade British tokens,
many of "condition census" quality
- A major library of British token references
featuring:

Thomas Sharp's catalog of the Collection of Sir George
Chetwynd inscribed to Sir Matthew Robinson Boulton
by Sir George Chetwynd, September 1834.

The fully illustrated catalog will be available in March.
The mail auction will close in April 2000.

There is no charge for the catalog—please write, fax or
email for your copy.

A specially produced and bound edition will be available
after the sale. Details will be provided in the sale catalog.

Catalogued by:

Allan Davisson, Ph.D.
Davissons Ltd.
Cold Spring, MN 56320
(Our full address)

FAX: 320-685-8636 Email: davcoin@aol.com

The Printer's Devil: Where Have All The Core References Gone?

By Joel J. Orosz

Everything appears to be coming up roses for the hobby of numismatic bibliomania. The Numismatic Bibliomania Society has an activist board and a state-of-the-art printer. The State Quarters program is drawing new collectors into the coin hobby and a solid percentage of these are gravitating toward bibliomania. Nothing, it seems, can slow the growth of the literature-loving clan. Nothing, that is, except books. Ironically, it is the unavailability of key references that may derail, or at least badly slow, the growth of the NBS.

For those who are interested in American numismatic literature, there are a small number of core reference books that are simply indispensable resources. One can collect without them, of course, just as one can drive a car without first taking a driver's education course, but the long-run result of both are likely to be very similar. It is safe to say that every serious veteran collector of American numismatic literature has dog-eared copies of each of these titles in his or her library. It is also safe to say that each new collector needs to have one of each.

The problem is that almost every one of them is out of print. They must be purchased, if they

can be found at all, in the second-hand or antiquarian market, and at prices that continue to go higher. Their unavailability threatens to nip in the bud the growth of numismatic bibliomania.

There is no disagreement about the titles of these essential references. The first is Emmanuel Joseph Attenelli's *Numisgraphics*, a comprehensive listing of virtually every auction catalog, book, periodical, and ephemeral publication on the subject of numismatics published in the United States through 1875. Original copies of *Numisgraphics*, which made its debut in 1876, are prohibitively rare, and even the 1976 Quarterman reprint is no longer readily available. When a copy comes on the market, the cost is apt to approach \$100, and steady demand will likely continue to inflate that price.

John W. Adams' *United States Numismatic Literature*, Volumes 1 and 2, provide an in-depth examination of the catalogues emitted by the major coin dealers of the 19th century (Volume 1), and the 20th (Volume 2). Each catalog is analyzed as to quality of content, and Adams introduces each dealer with an informative bio-

graphical sketch. Volume 1, published in 1982, has long been out of print, and Volume 2, published in 1990, will soon follow. Both volumes were published in editions of just 500, and are fine examples of the bookbinder's craft, so they were three-figure items when they first came out. The continuing demand is driving prices higher on those infrequent occasions when they appear on the secondary market.

Martin Gengerke's *American Numismatic Auctions* is an exhaustive compendium of every catalog with numismatic content ever issued in the United States, more than 13,000 in all. The first edition appeared in 1984; seven more have followed, with the most recent appearing in 1990. Certain editions also list catalogs in chronological order, and by consignor. The eighth and final edition was sold out about the time that Bill Clinton entered the White House. Although it appears with some frequency in book auctions, it is always snapped up quickly, and usually at a higher price than the one which sold previously.

Charles Davis' *American Numismatic Literature* (1992), is a record of prices realized at auction for selected books, catalogues, periodicals, and ephemera for the period from 1980 to 1991. Although the prices recorded are now mainly a matter of historical interest, the author's annotations are extremely informative, and descriptions of distinguishing characteristics of the items sold make the volume useful for

provenance research, as well. The collector can also get a sense of how rare a contemplated purchase may be by seeing how many times it was offered at auction between 1980 and 1991. Although the author may have an odd copy or two left, *American Numismatic Literature* is, for all practical purposes, out of print. It appears but infrequently in the secondary market, and goes anything but cheaply when it does.

In addition to these references, others could be added. Pete Smith's *American Numismatic Biographies* (1992); Remy Bourne's *American Numismatic Periodicals, 1860-1960* (1990); and Frank and Laurese Katen's "Coin World Book Edition," a bibliography published in the 1977 edition of the *Coin World Almanac*. Again, these are, one and all, out of print.

It is clear what effect these books had upon the hobby of numismatic bibliomania. In 1975, the number of serious numismatic bibliophiles could be convened in a decent-sized living room. By 1995, their numbers ranked in the hundreds. Other factors helped fuel the growth, of course, but the availability of essential reference sources was a prerequisite to significant expansion of the hobby.

It is also clear what effect the unavailability of basic reference sources is likely to have upon newcomers to the hobby. They will be handicapped by the inaccessibility of needed information, and will probably chafe at the

problems that it causes for them. If the experience of coin collectors provides any guide, they will probably balk at paying what they consider to be high prices for references. Caught in the trap of needing the information, but being unable or unwilling to pay for it, many are likely to become discouraged and leave the hobby.

Here, then, is the Lord's own work for an enterprising numismatic publisher to embrace: A core references reprinting program. In the best of all possible worlds, the reprinting would be done only after each reference was revised, for each contains a handful of errors and some few omissions. It would be ideal, as well, if scholarly prefatory material could be inserted, explaining the historical and bibliographical significance of the volume in question.

This world, however, stubbornly refuses to be the best of all possible spheres. It would take years to identify and correct errors, to poll collectors for pieces in their collections that are "not in ...," and to commission thoughtful and well-researched prefatory articles. By the time all of this could be accomplished, a lot of new collectors would have long since grown discouraged and decamped for other hobbies.

This would argue, then, for doing a "quick and dirty" facsimile edition of each of the core references, which would admittedly

not be an updating or an improvement, but which would quickly fill the knowledge void. Perhaps such a series could be produced inexpensively on CD-ROM.

Your columnist would favor a combination of both approaches: a "quick and dirty" publication series to meet immediate demand, and a more substantial and enduring hard-copy series, printed on acid-free paper, that would correct errors, include previously omitted items (with both corrections and additions clearly marked as such), and add informed commentary. This combination would satisfy both our need for instant references, and for enduring preservation of state-of-the-art knowledge.

What would be the consequences of doing nothing? It seems safe to predict that the core references would continue to appear on the secondary market, but their appearances would be at randomly spaced intervals. They would probably command consistently high prices, thus crowding many budding collectors out of the market. The unavailability of these references would act like a tourniquet around the hobby's neck, choking off the free flow of vital information. It would be ironic, indeed, if future historians were to pass this judgement upon numismatic bibliophiles at the beginning of the new millennium: "For the want of some books, their hobby was lost."

News From the Net

by Pete Smith

By February 2000, The E-Sylum reached 278 readers. To get on the mailing list send your e-mail address to Wayne Homren at whomren@coinlibrary.com. Items discussed below appeared early in 2000.

Garrett Archives

The numismatic archives of the Garrett family has been donated to the American Numismatic Society in New York City.

The ANS also received the numismatic library of Charles A. Hersch, a specialist in Roman Republican coinage and coinage of the Macedonian kings.

ANS Library Catalogue

The American Numismatic Society library catalogue has been converted to machine readable records and will be available on CD-ROM. It is anticipated that it will be available at the ANS website.

Mystery 1804 Dollar

The *Coin World* issue of January 31, 2000, had the following ad, "\$25,000 Reward for the location and legitimate recovery of my 1804 silver dollar." Said to be stolen from the owner's home, it was described as having extensive circulation wear and three initials cut into the surface.

The revelation of a previously

unknown 1804 dollar might be the "numismatic discovery of the (new) century" if it was legitimate. Since that is highly unlikely, The E-Sylum speculated that a scam was likely. Commenting on recent reproductions from the Gallery Mint, it was suggested that that the three initials might be "COP" or "OPY."

Karoleff Column

Brad Karoleff an occasional contributor to the E-Sylum, and new contributor to *Coin World*. His "Designs of the Times" column features early silver coinage. *Coin World* promoted Karoleff's column with two exposures of the identical column in their opening issue of January 17, 2000. Editor William T. Gibbs wrote it was a "computer-generated production error."

Mallis Death Reported

George Mallis, co-author with Leroy VanAllen, of *The Comprehensive Catalogue and Encyclopedia of United States Morgan and Peace Silver Dollars*, died January 1, 2000, at age 84.

Book Releases

B. Karoleff and P. Fricke announced the recent release of the seventh edition of *Bust Half Quotes*.

J. Ineson's *Paper Currency of the Anglo-Boer War, 1899-1902* has been published by Spink.



MONEY TREE PRESS

Myron Xenos

1260 Smith Court

Rocky River, Ohio 44116

PH. (440) 333-3444

FAX (440) 333-4463

Announces publication of:

“ULTIMATE GUIDE TO BUST HALF DOLLARS”

A 200 page book featuring close-up photos of all 450 varieties of Capped Bust Halves, showing diagnostics of each variety and a current price valuation of each.

Estimated release date August 9, 2000
at Philadelphia A.N.A.

*Available in hard-bound, spiral-bound and
in a special limited edition*

- Prices to be announced -

Index to *The Asylum* Volumes XVI to XVII (1998-1999) by William Malkmus

Author Index

- ANONYMOUS, "Announcing the New Device: Built-in Orderly Organized Knowledge [BOOK]." XVI/3:24
 _____ "Teenager Wins Numismatic Literature Essay Contest." XVII/3:11
 AREFIEV, V., "New York Auction Trumps Montel Show on NBC." XVI/4:23-24
 BURD, WILLIAM A., "Researching a Story." XVI/2:26-27
 CAMPBELL JR., FRANCIS D., "Harry W. Bass, Jr.: A Remembrance." XVI/2:9-11
 CHRISTIE, BOB, "The Whitman Numismatic Journal." XVI/4:21-22
 CRAWMER, ARTHUR, "Moving into the New Millennium: Some Thoughts on Numismatics in the Year 2000 and Beyond." XVI/3:19-23
 DEANE, ED, "Harry Wesley Bass, Junior: A Tribute to a Great Numismatist." XVI/2:3-8
 DZIUBEK, LARRY, "Review of Lester M. Burzinski, *Communion Tokens of the World*." XVII/4:19
 ELLENBOGEN, RAPHAEL, "United States Treasury Specimen Books." XVI/1:12-18; (L,E)XVII/2:3
 FORT, E. TOMLINSON, "Editorial: Who am I? Why Am I Here?" XVII/4:2-3
 FULD, GEORGE, "Harry Bass vs. the Fuld Library." XVII/2:15-16
 FULTZ, TAMARA LEE, "Letter to the Editor [re: U.S. Treasury Specimen Book]." XVII/2:3
 GIBBS, WILLIAM T., "E-Sylum Complements Asylum for Numismatic Literature Collectors." XVII/3:14-15
 HIRT, DAVID, "Membership Reports." XVI/2:2; XVI/3:2; XVI/4:3; XVII/2:3; XVII/3:3; XVII/4:4
 "Letter to the Editor [re: Roper 1851 Catalog; Charles C. Rood]." XVII/1:4
 "Letter to the Editor [re: Something About Coins (1863), by E. A. Barra]." XVII/3:3-4
 HODDER, MICHAEL, "Letter to the Editor [re: 1792 gold Washington Pres., 1861 Confed. half]." XVI/4:19-20
 HOMREN, WAYNE, "Show and Tell!" XVI/4:24-28
 _____ "President's Message." XVII/3:2; XVII/4:2
 HONORÉ, CARL C., "Review of Richard Doty, 'The Soho Mint and the Industrialization of Money.'" XVII/2:12-13
 KOLBE, GEORGE FREDERICK, "The First Photographically Illustrated Auction Catalogue (1860)." XVI/2:25
 LAKE, FRED, "NBS Meeting at FUN (Jan. 10, 1998)." XVI/1:19
 LANGE, DAVID W., "The Development of the Coin Album (Parts Two through Four)." XVI/2:33-45; XVI/3:25-41; XVII/1:30-35; XVII/2:22-25
 LESSEN, MARVIN, "Some Letters by Edward Hawkins." XVI/1:27-28

- MALKMUS, WILLIAM, "More on Budé's De Asse..." XVII/2:18-21;
(E)XVII/3:3
- MCINNIS JR., JORDAN HUGH, "George Marion Klein of Vicksburg,
Mississippi: My Great-Grandfather." XVI/4:36; XVII/4:26-30
- MURRAY, BILL, "Between the Covers." XVI/1:19; XVI/3:42; XVI/4:39;
XVII/1:3-4; XVII/2:11-12; XVII/3:12-13
- _____, "NBS Annual Meeting at ANA, Portland, August 8, 1998." XVI/3:23
- OROSZ, JOEL J., "Ken Lowe: Amateur of Numismatic Literature."
XVI/2:11-12
- _____, "The Printer's Devil." XVI/2:28-32; XVI/3:13-18; (L)XVI/4:19-20;
XVII/1:5-9; XVII/2:7-10; XVII/3:5-11; (L)XVII/4:4
- _____, "Annual 'Shammies' Awards." XVI/4:14-18; XVII/4:26-30
- _____, "The World Turned Upside Down." XVII/1:15-29
- _____, "Ad Hominem ad Nauseam: The 'Great Debate' between Michael
Hodder and Theodore Buttrey." XVII/3:23-29
- PEPPER, D. R. R., "Eben Locke Mason, Jr. — A Double Life." XVII/4:5-9
- PRICE, ED, "Research Aids: Catalogs, NBS Friends, and Serendipity."
XVII/2:27-31
- RUBIN, P. SCOTT, "Variants of the 1851 Roper Auction Sale Catalogue."
XVI/4:37-38; (L)XVII/1:4
- SKLOW, DAVID J. "The Numismatist: The First Six Volumes — Where Are
They Now?" XVII/3:18-22
- SMITH, PETE, "The Dick Punchard Library Sale." XVI/1:8-11
- _____, "News from the Net." XVI/3:40-41; XVI/4:40-41; XVII/1:10-14;
XVII/2:4-6; XVII/4:20-24
- _____, "More on Charles C. Rood." XVI/4:29-36; (L)XVII/1:4
- SULLIVAN, MICHAEL J. "President's Message." XVI/1:2-3; XVI/2:2; XVI/3:2;
XVI/4:2-3; XVII/1:2; XVII/2:2
- _____, "The Foote Counterfeit Detector and Armand Champa." XVI/1:20-
26
- WETTERSTROM, KERRY K., "Collecting the Auction Catalogs of
Numismatic Fine Arts." XVI/1:4-7
- ZANDER, RANDOLPH, "Some Random Numismatic Reminiscences."
XVI/2:16-25; XVI/3:3-12; XVI/4:4-13

Subject Index

AUCTION CATALOGS

- Christie, Manson & Woods, 1860 (First photographically illustrated auc-
tioncatalogue) [article by George F. Kolbe] XVI/2:25
- Numismatic Fine Arts [article by Kerry K. Wetterstrom] XVI/1:4-7
- Roper Auction Sale 1851 Variants [article by P. Scott Rubin] XVI/4:37-38;
(L)XVII/1:4

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

- Anderson, P. K. [article by Randolph Zander] XVI/4:5-7
- Baldwin, Albert [article by Randolph Zander] XVI/2:20-21
- Barlow, Joel (1754-1812) [column by Joel J. Orosz] XVII/3:5-11
- Bass, Harry Wesley, Jr. [eulogy by Ed Deane] XVI/2:3-8 [eulogy by

Francis D. Campbell, Jr.] XVI/2:9-11 [article by George Fuld]
XVII/2:15-16

- Bekicz, Jan Ignatiewicz [article by Randolph Zander] XVI/2:23-24
 Bullowa, David [article by Randolph Zander] XVI/2:21-22
 Buttrey, Theodore V. [article by Joel J. Orosz] XVII/3:23-29
 Byrne, Ray [article by Randolph Zander] XVI/4:11-12
 Chapman, Henry [article by Randolph Zander] XVI/2:19
 Coe, Billy [article by Randolph Zander] XVI/4:8-9
 Curtis, John K. [column by Joel J. Orosz] XVII/1:5-9
 Daggett, John [article by William A. Burd] XVI/2:26-27
 Douglas, Ben [article by Randolph Zander] XVI/3:3
 Eklund, Ole P. [article by Randolph Zander] XVI/3:5-6,12
 Elder, Thomas L. [article by Randolph Zander] XVI/2:17-19
 Farouk (King) [article by Randolph Zander] XVI/4:4-5
 Gartner, John [article by Randolph Zander] XVI/4:5
 Gibbs, Howard [article by Randolph Zander] XVI/3:7-8
 Grunthal, Henry [article by Randolph Zander] XVI/4:9-10
 Hawkins, Edward [article by Marvin Lessen] XVI/1:27-28
 Hodder, Michael [article by Joel J. Orosz] XVII/3:23-29
 Johnson, Burdette G. [article by Randolph Zander] XVI/3:4-5
 Klein, George Marion [articles by Jordan Hugh McInnis, Jr.] XVI/4:36;
 XVII/4:26-30
 Kowalski, Arnold [article by Randolph Zander] XVI/3:8-9
 Landry, Peter [article by Randolph Zander] XVI/4:5-7
 Lowe, Ken [notice by Michael J. Sullivan] XVI/2:2 [eulogy by Joel J.
 Orosz] XVI/2:11-12 [eulogy by Harold Welch]
 XVII/2:13-24
 Mason, Eben[ezer] Locke, Jr. [article by D. R. R. Pepper] XVII/4:5-9
 Peus, Busso [article by Randolph Zander] XVI/3:12
 Rood, Charles C. [column by Michael J. Sullivan] XVI/2:28-32 [article by
 Pete Smith] XVI/4:29-36; (L)XVII/1:4
 Schirmer, William [article by Randolph Zander] XVI/3:9-10
 Schulman, Hans [article by Randolph Zander] XVI/3:6-7
 Schwab, Carl O. [article by Randolph Zander] XVI/4:12-13
 Södermann, Leonid [article by Randolph Zander] XVI/4:12
 Sureck, Jake [article by Randolph Zander] XVI/4:7-8
 von Sandro, Alex [article by Randolph Zander] XVI/3:11
 Woodside, Bill [article by Randolph Zander] XVI/4:10-11
 Wylie, Alexander Parker [column by Joel J. Orosz] XVII/2:7-10
 Zander, Randolph [reminiscences] XVI/2:16-25; XVI/3:3-12;
 XVI/4:4-13

BOOKS (PRESERVATION, ETC.)

- Gabrielle Fox, bookbinder [meeting reports] XVI/1:3; XVI/2:14-15
 Books by Title
 Catalogue of the Manuscripts, Maps, Medals, Coins ... of the Maryland
 Historical Society (1856), by Lewis Mayer [column by Joel J. Orosz]
 XVII/3:5-11

- Communion Tokens of the World, by Lester M. Burzinski [review by Larry Dziubek] XVII/4:19
- De Asse et Partibus Eius ..., by Guillaume Budé [article by William Malkmus] XVII/2:18-21; (E)XVII/3:3
- Descriptive Catalogue of Coins, Greek and Roman Medals Belonging to the Historical Society of Maryland (1851), by Daniel E. Groux [column by Joel J. Orosz] XVII/3:5-11; (L)XVII/4:4
- Guide to Coin Investment, A, by Robert Bilinski [column by Joel J. Orosz] XVII/1:15-29
- History of ... Cumberland County, New Jersey and of the Currency ..., by Lucius Q. C. Elmer [column by Wayne Homren] XVI/4:24-28
- Indian Peace Medals in American History, by Francis Paul Prucha [column by Wayne Homren] XVI/4:24-28
- Register of Half Dollar Varieties, A, by M. L. Beistle [column by Wayne Homren] XVI/4:24-28
- Riches of Coins, The, [CD] (Smithsonian, 1992) [column by Joel J. Orosz] XVI/3:13-18
- The Silver Coins of England by Edward Hawkins [article by Marvin Lessen] XVI/1:27-28
- State Bank of Iowa, The, by Hoyt Sherman [column by Wayne Homren] XVI/4:24-28
- Soho Mint and the Industrialization of Money, The, by Richard Doty [article by Carl C. Honoré] XVII/2:12-13
- Something About Coins (1863), by E. A. Barra [letter by David Hirt] XVII/3:3-4
- Portraits and Vignettes ... (United States Treasury Specimen Books) [article by Raphael Ellenbogen] XVI/1:12-18; (L,E)XVII/2:3
- Universal Counterfeit ... Bank Note Detector ..., The (1849/53), by Henry C. Foote [article by Michael J. Sullivan] XVI/1:20-26

BOOK COLLECTING (GENERAL)

- Between the Covers [column by Bill Murray] XVII/1:3-4

BOOK SALE REPORTS (CONTEMPORARY)

- Dick Punchard Library Sale (Remy Bourne, Sept. 12-13, 1997) [article by Pete Smith] XVI/1:8-11
- Illustrations/Photography First Photographically Illustrated Auction Catalogue (Christie, Manson & Woods, 1860) [article by George F. Kolbe] XVI/2:25

LITERATURE (GENERAL)

- Research Aids: Catalogs, NBS Friends, and Serendipity [article by Ed Price] XVII/2:27-31
- Teenager Wins Numismatic Literature Essay Contest [anonymous notice] XVII/3:11

LITERATURE (MISCELLANEOUS)

- Announcing the New Device: Built-in Orderly Organized Knowledge [BOOK] [anonymous article] XVI/3:24
- Between the Covers [columns by Bill Murray] XVI/1:19; XVI/3:42;

- XVI/4:39; XVII/2:11-12; XVII/3:12-13
 Development of the Coin Album [articles by David W. Lange] XVI/2:33-45; XVI/3:25-41; XVII/1:30-35; XVII/2:22-25
 Ephemeria (Between the Covers) [column by Bill Murray] XVII/2:11-12
NBS NEWS AND HISTORY
 Awards
 XVI/1:2-3; XVI/3:2; XVII/2:2
 Constitution and By-Laws [center insert] XVI/3:i-iv
 Elections (1999) XVII/2:2
 National Meetings
 ANA, Cincinnati, March 20, 1998 [reports] XVI/2:14-15; XVI/3:43-44
 Annual Meeting at ANA, Portland, Aug. 8, 1998 [reports] XVI/1:3; XVI/3:23,41
 Regional Meetings FUN Jan. 10, 1998 [report by Fred Lake] XVI/1:19
 President's Message
 [Michael J. Sullivan] XVI/1:2-3; XVI/2:2; XVI/3:2; XVI/4:2-3; XVII/1:2; XVII/2:2
 [Wayne Homren] XVII/3:2; XVII/4:2
 Editorials
 [E. Tomlinson Fort] XVII/4:2-3
 Membership Reports XVI/1:3; XVI/2:2; XVI/3:2; XVI/4:3; XVII/2:3; XVII/3:3; XVII/4:4
 Web Site XVI/2:27; XVI/3:18,(L)42-43; XVI/4:2-3
 The Asylum XVI/1:2; XVI/4:2-3,20; XVII/3:14-15
 The E-Sylum XVII/3:2,14-15
 News from the Net [articles by Pete Smith] XVI/3:40-41; XVI/4:40-41; XVII/1:10-14; XVII/2:4-6; XVII/4:20-24
 Annual "Shammies" Awards XVI/4:14-18; XVII/4:11-19
NUMISMATIC LIBRARIES, EXHIBITS
 The Dick Punchard Library Sale [article by Pete Smith] XVI/1:8-11
 George Fuld Library [article by George Fuld] XVII/2:15-16
PERIODICALS
 Asylum, The [article by William T. Gibbs] XVII/3:14-15
 E-Sylum, The [article by William T. Gibbs] XVII/3:14-15
 Mémoires de la Société d'Archéologie et de Numismatique ... [article by V. Arefiev] XVI/4:23-24
 Numismatist, The [article by David J. Sklow] XVII/3:18-22
 Whitman Numismatic Journal [article by Bob Christie] XVI/4:21-22

Just Arrived! Read about the \$4.14 million coin!

The Rare Silver Dollars Dated 1804 and the Exciting Adventures of Edmund Roberts



The Childs specimen of the 1804 dollar realized \$4.14 million when it crossed the auction block August 30th, 1999.

The silver dollar dated 1804 has been the most storied, most publicized, most acclaimed rare coin variety ever minted by the United States. It has been surrounded by mystery, legend, intrigue and adventure. The delivery of the first 1804 dollars, and the circumstances leading to the occasion, include tales of piracy, shipwreck, and adventure on the high seas. To add further interest, Edmund Roberts, the American diplomatic 'special agent' who personally delivered the first two 1804-dated dollars on behalf of President Andrew Jackson, hailed from Portsmouth, scarcely 50 miles distant from our offices in Wolfeboro, New Hampshire. The very first 1804 dollar, presented by Roberts to the Sultan of Muscat, was auctioned by us in August of 1999 as part of the Walter H. Childs Collection. It realized \$4.14 million.

Q. David Bowers has brought together in one 490-page volume, the remarkable history of the 1804 dollar, the romantic adventures behind the presentation sets made for the King of Siam and the Sultan of Muscat, the behind-the-scenes stories, controversies of the making of these pieces, and much, much more!

A special section gives the biographies of well over 100 dealers, collectors, and authors who have handled or studied 1804 dollars over the years. Included is page after page of fascinating information concerning such people as Mehl, Haseltine, Granberg, Brand, Green, Eliasberg, Stickney, and more—a biographical 'treasure' in its own right.

Another section will describe transaction by transaction the pedigree history of each of the 15 known 1804-dated dollars, including much information never before available in a single volume. The book is written in highly readable style. Once you pick up the book, get set for many hours of enjoyable reading!

Take a look at these reviews!

"A fascinating MS-70 opus. So real, so alive, offering an intelligent application of knowledge and perceptive reconstruction."

—Anthony J. Swiatek, President, ANA

"Leave it to Dave Bowers to write a whole book on one coin. The master has created another masterpiece."

—David Hall

"Dave Bowers invites you to travel the 19th century via new research—ship's logs, letters, and contemporary newspaper accounts—as he fleshes in the fascinating details that reveal why the dollars of 1804 were made and for whom. The cast of characters leaps from the pedigree charts, becoming real people center stage in a drama of high adventure that has no equal in numismatics."

—Beth Deisher

"Dave Bowers has done it again. Just when you think that he couldn't possibly surpass his last book, he puts forth a highly readable, always enjoyable, well-researched book that makes history come alive, and flips modern numismatic research on its tail. Bravo to Dave Bowers who clearly has bragging rights to be best writer, and most prolific, of our generation."

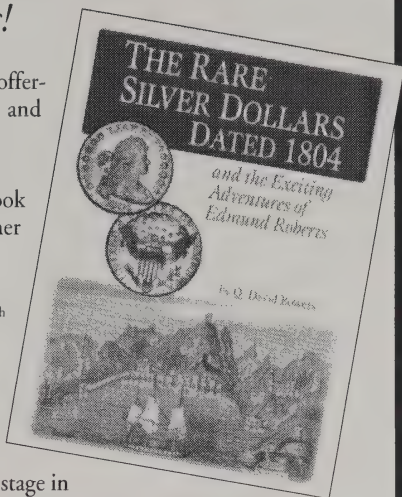
—David L. Ganz

"Dave Bowers affirms his herculean research talent in his latest book, which becomes an instant must-have for the libraries of serious numismatists. Dave gives us the 'rest of the story' about the famed 'King of American Coins' and Edmund Roberts, the man who delivered two of these 1804 dollars to the King of Siam and the Sultan of Muscat. A description of life during the 19th century is a special bonus the reader gains from the pages of this numismatic high seas adventure."

—Helen Carmody-Lebo

"Like the Fantastic 1804 Dollar, Dave has written a fantastic book—panorama of history—an admirable and entertaining piece of work."

—Ken Bressett



ORDER INFORMATION

To order this fully illustrated, 8m by 11" deluxe hardbound call our publications department at 1-800-222-5993 with your credit card handy.

Stock No. BBM-407, List \$69.95

Bowers and Merena Galleries, Inc.

Box 1224 • Wolfeboro, NH 03894 • 800-222-5993 • In NH: 569-5095 • FAX: 603-569-5319

www.bowersandmerena.com

ASY0300B

Wanted for Outright Purchase

- Out-of-print standard references on ancient and modern numismatics
- Antiquarian books printed before 1800
- Fine bindings

Selling

- We have a good stock of out-of-print books and selected in-print titles.
- Data base list of more than 2000 books and catalogs on ancient and medieval numismatics available for \$5.

See our new Website for all of these lists and more

www.numismaticliterature.com

Images of the Illustrious:

The Numismatic Presence in the Renaissance

by: John Cunnally. Princeton New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1999. xi, (3), 230 pp, well illustrated in the text. Octavo, cloth with d.j. Price \$50, postpaid (Book rate U.S.A. and overseas)

From the dust jacket: "Images of the Illustrious is an introduction and a guide to the numismatic scholarship of the Renaissance - the coin collections and illustrated coin-books produced by humanists and artists of the sixteenth century. Ancient Greek and Roman coins were the most abundant and portable remains of antiquity throughout Renaissance Europe, and were avidly collected as treasures, studied as documents, exchanged as gifts, admired as art, venerated as relics, and cherished as talismans of antique virtue. The ubiquitous presence of these coins, the author argues, made the lost world of the ancients accessible, comprehensible, and concrete to all literate Europeans, and encouraged an attitude toward history as a series of discontinuous scenes and events, driven by the ambitious and self-seeking individuals whose striking faces appear on the coins. Illustrated with many examples of the elegant art of the Renaissance coin-books, *Images of the Illustrious* ends with a comprehensive descriptive bibliography of the sixteenth-century numismatists and their books."

John F. Bergman Numismatic Literature

4223 Iroquois Ave. / Lakewood, CA 90713 / USA

Fax: 562 421 0171 Tel: 562 421 0171 (10AM-8PM, 7 days)

E-mail: john@numismaticliterature.com

THE ASYLUM

Quarterly Journal of the
Numismatic Bibliomania Society

Volume XVIII, No. 2

Spring 2000

CONTENTS

| | |
|--|----|
| President's Message | 34 |
| by Wayne Homren | |
| Edward Burns | 36 |
| by Lord Stewartby | |
| The Printer's Devil: Samuel Breck and his <i>Historical Sketch of</i> <i>Continental Paper Money</i> | 50 |
| by Joel J. Orosz | |

***A university is just a group
of buildings gathered
around a library.***

- SHELBY FOOTE -



NUMISMATIC BIBLIOMANIA SOCIETY OFFICERS

President

Wayne Homren
1810 Antietam St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15206
whomren@coinlibrary.com

Vice-President

Tom Sheehan,
P. O. Box 1477,
Edmonds, WA 98020,
twsheeh@attglobal.net

Secretary-Treasurer

Dave Hirt
5911 Quinn Orchard Rd.
Frederick, MD 21704

Members of the Board

Bob Metzger, P.O. Box 307, Lakeville, MN 55044-0307, ultrabob@gte.net
Larry Mitchell, Box 902317, Palmdale, CA 93590, numislit@yahoo.com
Bill Murray, 7400 Crestway, Apt. 1423, San Antonio, TX 78239, billmur13@aol.com
Joel Orosz, 4300 Old Field Trail, Kalamazoo, MI 49008, jjo@wkkf.org
Scott Rubin, P.O. Box 6885, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648, P.ScottRubin@worldnet.att.net

The Asylum

Vol. XVIII, No. 2 Consecutive Issue No. 71 Spring 2000

Editor: E. Tomlinson Fort

P.O. Box 5035
Pittsburgh, PA 15206
Etfort@aol.com

Editor-in-Chief: Bob Metzger

P.O. Box 307
Lakeville, MN 55044-0307
ultrabob@gte.net

Advertising Rates

| | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Full Page | \$60.00 |
| Inside Front, Inside or Outside Back Cover | 65.00 |
| Half Page | 35.00 |
| Quarter Page | 20.00 |
| Classified | 10¢ per word, minimum \$ 2.50 |

The Asylum is published quarterly. Manuscripts sent to the editor should be accompanied, if possible, by a Macintosh (preferred) or PC (if necessary) compatible disk. For more information please contact the editor.

N.B.S. Membership: \$15.00 annual dues in North America, \$20.00 elsewhere. Members receive all issues of the current volume. Requests for membership should be submitted to the Secretary-Treasurer.

©2000 Numismatic Bibliomania Society

President's Message

by Wayne Homren

Welcome to the second issue of *The Asylum* for the year 2000.

This issue is a very special one. We are pleased and honoured to offer our members a study by Lord Stewartby on Edward Burns, authour of the classic 1887 monograph *The Coinage of Scotland*.

A graduate of Cambridge University, former member of the British Parliament and a Life Peer, Lord Stewartby is an avid numismatic researcher. He is a member of the British Academy Committee for the *Sylloge of Coins of the British Isles* series, a former Director of the British Numismatic Society (1965-75), and a winner of the American Numismatic Society's J. Sanford Saltus Gold Medal in 1971. He has authoured numerous works dealing with the pre-modern coinages produced in Britain. Those dealing with the coinage of Scotland include *The Scottish Coinage* (1955, 2nd edition 1967), and 'Scottish Mints' in *Mints, Dies and Currency*, (1971), pp. 165-289. He has also published numerous studies on the coinage of mediaeval England, especially that of the Anglo-Saxons. He co-authored with C.E. Blunt and C.S.S. Lyon, *Coinage in Tenth Century England* (1989). and contributed the chapter on the pre-Conquest period to *The New History of the Royal Mint* (1992).

Rounding out the issue is an

equally interesting work by Dr. Joel J. Orosz on Samuel Breck and his landmark 1843 work, *Historical Sketch of Continental Paper Money*. Joel's hard work and scholarship in search of information on early numismatic figures is unequalled, and we are very fortunate to be able to publish his work in our journal.

Our Annual General Meeting will be held Friday, 11 August at the American Numismatic Association convention in Philadelphia (11:30 AM in Room 201C of the Convention Center).

In addition to the AGM, the Society will sponsor the symposium on Numismatic Literature which will be held on the same day from 2 to 3:30 PM (in the same room as the AGM). Moderated Dr. Orosz, symposium participants include Peter Smith, who will be speaking on the books published about the Philadelphia mint, and Eric Newman, who will be discussing the career of Beale Bordley, one of the earliest people to write on a numismatic topic in the United States.

The convention is a great chance to get together in person with your fellow NBS members and officers - we hope to see many of you there.

While you're at the convention, don't forget to view the exhibits of numismatic literature.

New Members

Fernando Bassolini, Torino, Italy
 James Bowman, Hayward, CA
 Philip Ewen, Massapequa, NY
 David Fanning, Columbus, OH
 Greg Hinz, Seattle, WA

Joseph Jeffrey, Milwaukee, WI
 James D. King, Oysterville, MA
 Nolan Mims, Semmes, AL
 Ponterio and Associates, San
 Diego, CA

The Numismatic Bibliomania Society Membership Application

YES, I hereby apply for membership in the Numismatic Bibliomania Society. I understand that I will receive the Society's quarterly journal, *The Asylum*.

Name: _____

Street: _____

City : _____ **State:** ____ **Zip:** ____

Phone: _____

My collecting interests are: _____

Membership dues are \$15.00 in North America, \$20.00 elsewhere. Members receive all copies of the current volume of *The Asylum*.

Return application with payment to:

NUMISMATIC BIBLIOMANIA SOCIETY
 DAVID HIRT, SECRETARY
 5911 QUINN ORCHARD ROAD
 FREDERICK, MD 21704

I hereby make application for membership in the Numismatic Bibliomania Society, subject to the bylaws of the organization.

Signature of Applicant

Date

Edward Burns

by Lord Stewartby

A hundred years after its publication in 1887, *The Coinage of Scotland* by Edward Burns remains one of the most regularly used works on British numismatics. Some of the reasons for this are self-evident. It contains photographic illustrations - it was one of the first numismatic works to do so - of over 1100 coins and descriptions of more than twice as many. It is therefore an indispensable source of material. But it is much more than that. The author's observations of letter forms and features of design, of the use, deterioration and replacement of individual punches, of dies and die-links, make the whole book a classic work of pioneering scholarship. No matter how much has since been written, the student today is unwise to ignore what Burns had to say about the style or details of inscription and

design of particular coins or about their relationship to each other.

Recognising the achievement of one who possessed 'the taste, the leisure, the insight, and the determination of character needful for such a Herculean task,' and 'the industry, ability, and fervid devotion of the author to his specialty,' the *Scotsman's* reviewer (30 January 1888), who counted himself as one of those 'who knew him best,' proceeded to explain why Burns was rightly judged by his contemporaries to have set new standards in numismatic technique:

His methods of observation and description were laboriously painstaking and minute; and his practised eye could detect at a glance differences of execution which, to the uninitiated, were quite invisible until the necessary demonstration and comparison convinced the reason, rather than the eye, that they did exist. He

Acknowledgements. This article is largely based on a transcript, made by the late Lieutenant-Colonel J. K. R. Murray, of the thirty-four letters Burns wrote to Cochran-Patrick in 1875. For a number of years I had been working intermittently with Col. Murray towards an account of early Scottish coin collectors and I should like to express my profound indebtedness to him, and to Mrs Murray, for making much relevant material available to me. I hope Jock Murray would have approved of this tribute to the scholar whose work we so often used and discussed, as a prologue to the paper on collectors which I still hope to produce when other commitments permit. I am also most grateful to Hunter of Hunterston, Cochran-Patrick's great-grandson, who several years ago gave us ready access to his papers and welcomed the suggestion that we might publish extracts from them

Editor's Note: This work was originally published in *The British Numismatic Journal*, vol. 57 (1987), 89-98. The editor wishes to thank both Lord Stewartby and the British Numismatic Society for their kindness in permitting us to reprint the work. The copyright is held by the British Numismatic Society, all rights are reserved.

acquired the habit of writing the legends of the coins in a conventionalised *facsimile* of the different forms of lettering in use at different periods; and by thus studying the types of the legends, and their lettering and the various devices employed to separate the words, he was enabled to group the mintages into classes corresponding with each other's peculiarities, and to rectify their attributions accordingly. This method, of what may be regarded as a classification on palaeographic principles, has been for the first time systematically applied to the Scottish coinage in the present work. It has the merit of resting on a sound, scientific basis; and, though it may not have been successfully applied in every instance, there can be no doubt that very many of Mr Burns' rectifications - and they are exceedingly numerous - will stand the test of time. Before his death he had the satisfaction of knowing that some of the most important were freely admitted and adopted by the best numismatists. The present work is, therefore, what may quite fairly be called an epoch-making work in Scottish numismatics.

Even today it is only in the use of hoard evidence and metal analyses that current techniques of mediaeval numismatics have advanced far beyond the point to which Burns had brought them a century ago. And we may be sure from pointers in his work that, had non-destructive means of analysis or a sufficiency of well-documented hoards

been available to him, he would have been among the first to exploit their evidence.¹ As it was, his method amounted to a new approach not only to Scottish coinage, but to the coinage of the later middle ages as a whole. It was applied during the first half of the present century to English coinage by numismatists such as Lawrence, Fox, Brooke and R. Carlyon-Britton, but not even yet to many continental coinages, a hundred years after Burns demonstrated what could be achieved by his new 'palaeographic' method.

Available published information about Burns himself is relatively sparse. Some meagre details about him are contained in a postscript to *The Coinage of Scotland*. Here we are told that 'he possessed a cheerful, self-reliant, and eminently genial nature, and was never happier than when among friends or coins.' He intended to enter the Church, but deafness prevented this and he engaged for a time in business. The minute study of mediaeval coins requires intense powers of concentration, and after his retirement Burns devoted himself wholeheartedly to numismatics, a pursuit in which L. A. Lawrence was also to find consolation for deafness.

Burns had at one time formed a distinguished coin col-

¹E. Burns, *The Coinage of Scotland* (Edinburgh, 1887), II, 113-4, records a destructive analysis of a James III groat which he commissioned. His appreciation of the value of hoard evidence is frequently apparent: e.g. his regret that no details were provided of two William the Lion starlings found with English short-cross coins in 'Notes on the Hoard of Coins Discovered in Banffshire, Supplementary to the Notice by Rev Dr Gordon,' *Proceedings of the Scottish Antiquarian Society* 16 (1881-2), 433-6.

lection, which he sold at Sotheby's in December 1869.² This comprised a very good selection of Romano-British, English and other coins, Jacobite medals, some Roman and Greek coins, and a strong Scottish element of 354 coins (24 in gold, 212 in silver and 118 in billon and copper). From certain comments in the catalogue it is apparent that Burns had done his own cataloguing. While his Scottish coins included many that would have appealed to general collectors, such as most of the commoner types of gold and an extremely fine half-testoon of 1562, his mediaeval silver clearly reflects a student's knowledge of variety and rarity, with a good range of fifteenth-century groats, and some outstandingly difficult items to obtain, such as the Alexander III Rex Scotorum sterling with twenty-seven point reverse, or the Roxburgh groat of James II. After this sale he continued from time to time to make purchases of coins, usually of a minor nature, which he used for study and subsequent resale. He advised collectors about their purchases, sometimes bidding at sales on their behalf, and through his activities he earned small commissions here and there. He was also on occasions invited by vendors or auctioneers to prepare the catalogues for important sales, such as the

Antiquaries duplicates sold by Dowell in April 1873, and the Kermack Ford collection sold by Sotheby in June 1884.

It is not known when Burns began to interest himself in the Scottish coinage, but he was elected a member of the Numismatic Society in June 1863 and at that time was living in George Street, Edinburgh, later moving to Bank Street. In 1869 or 1870 he went to London, where he spent a year or two, and it was probably during this period that he became closely associated with W. S. Lincoln and Son, of 462 New Oxford Street, the well-known dealers. When he returned to Edinburgh he was at first at 25 Charlotte Street and then at 33 Dublin Street. In 1875 he finally settled down at 3 London Street, where he remained until his death.

Burns was a prolific letter writer and corresponded frequently with curators and leading collectors of his day. The information which follows is mostly drawn from a number of his letters written to R.W. Cochran-Patrick during the years 1871-79. Together with hundreds of other letters from Cochran-Patrick's numismatic acquaintances during those years, these have been mounted in nine large albums which remain in the possession of the family. Unfortunately, many let-

² See H. E. Manville and T. J. Robertson, *British Numismatic Auction Catalogues* (London, 1986), 126, no. 7 (20 Feb. 1869) and 156, no. 6 (5-7 April 1887) for sales containing other coins said to have belonged to Burns. If this is correct, the latter presumably included coins submitted during his lifetime, since he only died a few days before the sale.

ters have been lost. A single one from Burns survives from 1884, with nothing for the years 1880-83. The most interesting group is a series of thirty-four letters written by Burns to Cochran-Patrick in 1875, which show that the two were in almost continuous communication with each other at that time.

The post between Edinburgh and Glasgow in 1875 must have been at least as rapid as it is today since on more than one occasion Burns wrote at an interval of two days, having received a reply from Cochran-Patrick to his earlier letter in the meantime. But the difficulties of communication in the days before the telephone are well illustrated by the failure of his efforts to see John Evans on a visit to Scotland, when he wanted to consult him about some Ancient British coins in the collection of Thomas Coats. On 23 June Burns asked 'if I miss seeing Mr Evans in Edinburgh, have I a chance of seeing him in Glasgow?' But on 7 July he added 'I could not call on Mr Evans while he was in Glasgow not knowing where he resided; and if I could have managed to see him at the station when leaving (altho' I knew neither by what station or by what train he was leaving) there would not have been sufficient opportunity to discuss matters there.'

The years from the 1840s to the 1880s were a golden age for Scottish numismatics, with

strong competition among a number of enthusiastic collectors for the rarer items, and an active scholarly interest in the subject led by Lindsay, Cochran-Patrick and Burns, but with participation also from several other student-collectors such as J. W. Martin, James Wingate, Robert Carfrae, Sheriff Thomas Mackenzie and J.H. Pollexfen.³ In the 1870s the scene was also much influenced by the growing interest as a collector of Thomas Coats of Ferguslie, who like his brother, Sir Peter, was a liberal benefactor of the town of Paisley where their cotton business had brought the family a substantial fortune. Much of the correspondence between Burns and Cochran-Patrick in 1875 was concerned with a projected paper by Burns on the earliest Scottish coinage, with arrangements for Burns to visit Ferguslie and catalogue the Coats collection, and with the disposal of Wingate's collection towards the end of the year. In 1875 Burns himself was aged 52. Of the other principal figures on the scene, Coats was 66, Pollexfen 62 and Carfrae 56, while Wingate (47), Mackenzie (44) and Cochran-Patrick (33) were all younger than Burns. Though Cochran-Patrick was much the youngest of the group, he was already recognised as a significant scholar and it is clear from the correspondence that Burns had a high regard for him.

At the beginning of 1875

³ I. Stewart, 'Two Centuries of Scottish Numismatics,' *The Scottish Antiquarian Tradition*, edited by A. S. Bell (Edinburgh, 1981), 227-65. Fig. 9 in this book is a portrait of Cochran-Patrick; I have not traced one of Burns.

Burns had for some time been heavily engaged on his study of the coins of David I, for which he assembled for comparison in Edinburgh as many of the existing specimens as he could trace, the actual coins if possible, but failing that casts, rubbings or other reproductions. This seems to have been the first occasion on which a numismatist made an intensive study of a group of mediaeval coins drawn from every available source, comparing them for die-identities and other similarities, and building up complete readings from several defective specimens. It is instructive to see how Burns set about such a task, before the days of easy photography; and it is also fascinating to read how he proceeded from week to week with work which in due course was to constitute the opening chapter of his book. On 4 January 1875 he was writing to Cochran-Patrick to say that two of his specimens were from the same pair of dies. On the sixth he remarked that Guthrie Lornie had a David which Cochran-Patrick might try to acquire; meanwhile George Sim, curator of the coin collection of the Society of Antiquaries, had written to Pollexfen asking him to send all his Davids to the Museum, ' & then we shall try to get Mr Wingate's. It is only by comparing one coin with another that we can put the Davids on a proper footing.' On the eighteenth Burns said 'I shall be extremely obliged by the tracings you have kindly promised

me of the Davids etc by Mr Cuff' and four days later he told Cochran-Patrick:

It will please you to know that your kind example has been followed by the other principal collectors of the David I period. Mr Wingate has sent me all his, 16 in number, Mr Pollexfen also all his 23 in number, including the coins engraved in Lindsay pl I nos 2 and 4. Mr Ford sent me 5, all that he has, but very interesting. Mr Lornie writes me that he has found other three Davids, which he had mislaid, and is to bring them over by the first opportunity. I have not yet had any response from Mr Gray, who told me when I saw him last that he would get me a sight of the rare David I penny sold at the Lamb sale,⁴ & bought for Mr Coats or Sir Peter.

After I have thoroughly examined the coins now in my keeping, & compared them with those of our Museum, I shall make an assault on the British Museum. Even if I do not get what coins they may have in *propria persona*, the Museum will give me beautifully executed stucco casts showing both sides of the coin. These will be of considerable service, but the coins themselves would be better.

On 28 January Burns first talked of publishing the results of his research.

It is, of course, chiefly by the opportunity afforded me of comparing one coin with another that I shall be able to make something useful of the Davids now entrusted to me. I have supplemented the reading of some of your coins, & these in turn have contributed to

⁴Burns, 30 (fig.28).

supplement the readings of some of the others. I propose to write out a complete list of the whole for publication in the *Num Chron.* Some points as regards the full reading of the respective legends I shall be able to settle; and even where I cannot give the whole legend I shall in many cases be able to give a good deal of it, so that the publication of such a list must contribute to the better understanding of this interesting but difficult series. I shall, of course, state along with the descriptions the respective cabinets in which the coins are contained.

On 8 February Burns again asked for help in getting impressions of the British Museum's Davids and was thinking how to illustrate his paper:

I don't know whether the Numismatic Society allows any portion of its funds to be donated towards supplying plates for the illustration of the articles. My impression is that it does, at least on special occasions. Mr Head for instance, could hardly have been asked to bear the expense of the plates accompanying his articles on Syracusan coins.⁵ To do justice to the article on the Davids - indeed to be of any service in illustrating it - a good many of the coins would require to be autotyped. In several cases I have three or four coins from the same dies. One at least of these & in some cases more, where it was desirable to show how each contributed to bring out the legend, would need to be done. And it would be desirable to give the different types of portrait of which there are very many. We could see better about this when I have got the whole reduced under their proper head.

Of the three Davids, which Lornie gave me on Thursday, I find that one is from the same identical die as your No. 8; one from the same die as one of Mr Wingates, and the other from the same die as your No. 11, of which Mr Pollexfen has two specimens, engraved Lindsay plate II, nos. 23-24. I seem therefore, in the specimens of Davids now with me, to have got most of the varieties. Still, even a poor, imperfect coin, sometimes supplies an important link in deciphering the legends, and it would be of very great importance to me to see as many more as possible. If Mr Coats will kindly let me see his David penny got at the Lamb sale, it may probably assist me in making out the legend on the reverse of Mr Wingate's coin with the annulets enclosing pellets. I have again to repeat that there is not the slightest danger of any of the coins getting mixed, because even when they are from the same die they do not present the exact same portions of the legend. I have no doubt whatever but that I shall make a satisfactory thing of this, but it is slow work, so few of the specimens showing anything like good legends. Many of the coins do not appear to have been ever intended to show intelligible legends, even where there is no difficulty in making out the letters.

Although suffering from neuralgia, Burns wrote again on 15 February to say:

Notwithstanding, I have put on a strong spurt with the Davids, throwing everything else in the meantime aside, and expect by the end of this week, or beginning of next, to have described all I now have, revising also & amending the catalogue I made of the Museum's

⁵ *Numismatic Chronicle* 1874

specimens. I have all the coins that appear to be from similar dies placed together on separate slips of paper. When I have the whole of those now in hand completed, I shall proceed to arrange them according as they seem to hang on to each other. It is of great importance that I should ascertain as soon as possible what fresh specimens are in Mr Coat's collection & in the British Museum. I shall act upon your link to write to Mr Coats at once, & perhaps you will kindly give the B.M. a reminder.

By 18 February Burns had 'described & arranged some sixty of the specimens in my hands,' and the thoroughness of his work is apparent a few days later (the twenty-sixth) when he observed 'I find that I have a large portion of the pieces from which the drawings in Lindsay's plates were taken - that is to say, the identical coins. Of the original work, I have nos. 6-7-8-9-11-12-13-15-17-18-23-24. Of the 1st sup. nos 2-4; and of the 2nd sup. I have the whole, besides corresponding pieces of several of the Nos, not mentioned.' On 6 March he was still awaiting receipt of the Coats specimens and hoping for autotypes from the British Museum, but his work was assisted in another direction, because 'Mr Sim kindly presented me with impressions in plaster of the coins in the Bute find. I have not looked at many of them as yet, but they give most correct representations of the coins.' A week later Burns had received three Davids from Coats and seven from

Thomas Gray,⁶ but casts of the British Museum coins were still awaited. On 20 April Burns announced receipt of sixteen plaster casts of David I coins and four of Earl Henry from the British Museum although 'unfortunately, some of the casts are frayed at the rims of the legends & some not well taken'. On 10 June he enquired whether there were any Davids in the Hunterian collection (there were not), but by now his material was virtually as complete as he could make it.

Publication was now the concern. On 13 March, Burns had said 'I am glad that the Num. Soc. will illustrate my article, for without illustrations it would be of little service. I don't expect to be much longer about it,' and on 13 April he described some autotypes which Cochran-Patrick had shown him as 'astonishing,' adding 'I do not see why you should not have some David I pieces done in the same manner.' This new process involved printing from photographic reproduction, and once it had been perfected it was used to great effect in several major numismatic works and important sale catalogues of the late nineteenth century. It was first used in the *Numismatic Chronicle* in 1873, and was widely in use thereafter. Cochran-Patrick's book, *Records of the Coinage of Scotland*, published in 1876, was illustrated in this way, and it is interesting to see how much the technique had improved by

⁶ Thomas Gray was presumably a close relation (son or brother?) of John Gray (d. 1879), Coats's agent, since they both lived at 150 West George Street, Glasgow.

1887 when Burns's own book was published. On 10 June 1875 Burns wrote 'I think that some of the Davids should be autotyped to go along with the lithograph of the legends. Many of the coins have been engraved, but in very few cases with anything like correctness, for as a rule, the *character* of the coin is completely ignored,' and on the seventeenth he went into more detail:

I have been going over the Davids to see which of the specimens it would be desirable to autotype. I think it would be of advantage to give the *obverses*, of which there are about *fifty* different varieties. Some of the obverses have more than one reverse (as regards legend). But as most of the reverses, so far as type is concerned, is the same, it would not be necessary to give more than a dozen or so of reverses in all. What with the one and the other three plates, of the Numismatic Chronicle size, would suffice... If the Num. Society, & the Society of Antiquaries⁷ here, both published the article as in the case of the Rev Mr Pollexfen's paper on the Bute Find, the expense of the plates divided between them would not be very deadly. But it is quite on the cards that I may have to publish the thing myself in order to get the thing published in my own way. I wish in every instance to state in what Cabinets the coins, which have passed thro' my hands are contained. Thus, where more than one specimen of a coin occurs, and this is the rule rather

than the exception, and where the different specimens contribute to make out the legend which is also the rule not the exception, it is absolutely necessary that in publishing this complete legend, I should state my authorities for this legend, that is to say the different specimens of the coin, which have enabled me to make out this complete legend. From what Anderson⁸ of the Museum here said, I quite expect that this will be a difficulty with the Antiquaries, and also the publishing of coins other than those in the museum of the Antiquaries itself. Anderson said the Museum had nothing to do with other peoples' coins and it was out of the question to expect them to enhance the values of these coins by publishing them. Of course if the Council took this ground, there would be an end of the matter so far as the Antiquaries were concerned. But in order that the article should properly give to collectors the results of these very long protracted and I may add thoroughly successful labours of mine, for I have thoroughly mastered the subject - in order that this work, now that it has been accomplished, may not require to be done again, it is necessary that the different varieties of the Davids, both as regards legend, & the coin, which bears that legend should be autotyped. Therefore if there is to be any demur about doing the thing correctly by the Councils either of the Antiquaries here, or of the Num Society, I shall just have to publish myself. After devoting about a twelve-month, (not less), to this matter, I could not have the patience to let either

⁷ Burns had been elected a fellow in 1874.

⁸ Joseph Anderson, LL.D. (1831-1916), keeper of the museum 1869-1913; for obituary see *Numismatic Circular* Jan-Feb 1917, col. 55. A comprehensive history of the museum is given by R. B. K. Stevenson in Bell, pp. 31-85 and 142-211 (see fig. 8 for portrait of Anderson).

of the worshipful councils undo, or spoil my work ... If I have the thing done while Mr Ready is here, it will require to be done at my own risk as I have no authority from the Councils of either the S.S.A. or Num. Society to have it done. But if they publish the article, they will require to relieve me of the expense. If not, I shall re-imburse myself by publishing the paper myself. I cannot afford to *present* the plates to them, *and I would not if I could*. The S. S.A. ought to get Mr Ready while he is here to autotype the coins in their collection, with which they mean to embellish their own catalogue.⁹

Burns became so busily engaged during the summer cataloguing the Coats collection that work on the Davids hung fire, and on 4 October he wrote 'the first draft of my paper on the Davids was written before I left for Paisley, but since then I have not had time to look at it. And it will require to stand over for a little longer because I propose spending a week or two in London as soon as I can get away.' Cochran-Patrick's book was in its final stages and Burns toyed with the idea of using this as a vehicle for publishing part of his work: 'I shall endeavour to get the paper on the Davids out of my hands as soon as I can. The main feature is the diagram of the inscriptions. What do you say about inserting this into your own work? Say, with just enough description to show what the coins are.' Nothing came of this suggestion, and it was in fact to be twelve more

years before the meticulous transcriptions which Burns had made in 1875 appeared in print in *The Coinage of Scotland*.

Plans for Burns to visit Paisley had been discussed earlier in the year. On 15 February he wrote to Cochran-Patrick 'should Mr Coats wish me to make a catalogue of his coins I shall be glad to do so,' and later (18 February), remarked that he had written to Coats by the same post. On 26 February Burns had heard indirectly, through his agent John Gray, that Coats wanted him to make up a catalogue of his collection, and on 4 March he told Cochran-Patrick that he 'would have pleasure in taking an early run through to Paisley to see Mr Coats coins,' and hoped to be able to combine this with looking at Cochran-Patrick's collection. No progress had been made by June, and Burns felt the difficulty of communicating through Gray, of whom he did not have a high opinion. Arrangements were eventually made for Burns to go early in July, expecting to be in Paisley for a fortnight. But the task of recording the Coats coins, which were not confined to the Scottish series, was a much bigger one than Burns had anticipated, and on 7 July he was saying 'I don't see how I can get through this catalogue for three weeks or more' and on the twelfth 'I do not think I can remove my headquarters from Paisley for about a month yet.' By 21 August Burns had 'not

⁹ *The Catalogue of the Scottish Coins in the National Museum, Edinburgh*, by A. B. Richardson, did not appear until 1900.

quite finished with Mr Coats' collection yet, and I shall still be here for a week or so longer;' He had not been well, and wanted to be home, 'I am devoting more time to the work now, for I am still rather shaky, & very desirous to be in auld Reekie again.' But he was not in fact back in Edinburgh until the end of September.

Burns had been much exercised about the terms for his work on the Coats collection. Receiving no reply for some weeks from Gray regarding dates, on 9 June Burns wrote to Cochran-Patrick:

To write again puts me in the position of seeking to force myself upon Mr Coats, and to return his coins by letter puts me in the equally disagreeable alternative of appearing to have taken the huff. I don't know what's up. It may be something in regard to terms. Before making any statement on that subject I asked Mr Sim, Mr Carfrae, and Mr Johnston¹⁰ of London - each and all of these said £2-2 per day. Mr Johnston has no idea to this hour, whose collection was in question. Mr Johnston said that the days work should consist of eight hours. In writing to Mr Gray, in my last letter, above referred to I said that I would rather take it at four hours per day and charge half. This would make the work more pleasant to me & be of much more benefit to Mr Coats, because three days of cataloguing and describing of four hours each would get through quite as much work as two days of eight hours & produce a much better result. I said to Gray also that after hours, when

Mr Coats wished I would give him as much general information on numismatic subjects as he cared to have. No charge for this of course. My object was to introduce Mr Coats to the heart of the subject if he was so disposed, & to render his collection to him a matter of intelligent study and pleasure. To give him the husks which is the full extent that any mere dealer could give him, would never make his collection anything else to him than a collection of playthings, if indeed so much, for you cannot play with a thing unless you see some fun in it, and you cannot see any fun in a thing that you don't understand.

Presumably Burns was a man of modest independent means, since he could hardly have supported his household on the proceeds of a few commissions, and occasional cataloguing and dealing. But he kept a watch on minor as well as major sales. Thus he wrote to Cochran-Patrick on 16 March:

I looked at the coins today that are to be sold tomorrow in George St. There is nothing that either you or I would care to buy. It very seldom happens that anything good occurs at a pawnbrokers sale, because it is impossible that any great advance can be given up on them. At least I have never seen anything but rubbish at such sales.

On an earlier occasion (2 November 1874) Burns explained how he dealt with the situation when he spotted undetected rarities. Referring to a (badly catalogued) sale on that

¹⁰ W. H. Johnston, FRNS 1864, *d.* 1875/6; Burns, II, 538 refers to his collection.

day at Lyon and Turnbull's Burns wrote:

There are some of the coins, the specialities of which I found out myself, that would have brought very long prices had they been properly described. I put them all in at the prices at which they were bought; but as these would certainly have been my own spoil, for Gray knew nothing about them, (and was not informed by me that I was buying anything else but the Alex II penny) the better way would be to allow some little bonus over the commission. The purchases for you amounted to £25-14-9, on which the commission would have been £2-11-6. Say for commission and bonus £5 in all. I got nothing for myself at all except one or two common coins.

Burns also had advice for Cochran-Patrick on buying from Lincoln (4 October 1875):

I think you should also stretch a point with Lincoln's coins, if you want to preserve the first pick. He was rather disappointed with the selections of the last lot. A David II Edinburgh groat with pellet behind head & in 1st quarter of *rev.* was a very excellent & rare coin. Perhaps you had it [here Burns mentions some other rare and interesting items] I think you should increase your selections from that lot, and ask if he has *any* more - not mentioning me in the matter.

Burns himself seems generally to have given first refusal of his own coins to Cochran-Patrick, as he remarked on 30 September 'I am going to dispose of some of my coins to Mr Coats - Scotch amongst the rest, & as I have promised that you

should have the refusal of the Scotch, I should like you to see them first.' One of the consequences of his visit to Ferguslie was that Burns was asked by Coats to look for coins for him. Writing from 5 Evershott St., Oakley Square, Camden Town on 5 November, 1875, Burns said 'I had a commission from Mr Coats to pick him up anything very good I might see in London - in selecting which I have confined myself entirely to English coins with the exception of a Half Shekel.' The cataloguing had taken much of the summer, and Burns had gone south in October, taking his wife to Brighton. In a postscript to the same letter he added 'I leave my wife here as a pledge for my return to attend the Wingate sale. I took my present trip to the South solely for her benefit, as she had had no summer jaunt, owing to my engagement at Paisley.'

When it became known in the summer of 1875 that the great Wingate collection was to be dispersed there was frantic activity among various interested parties, and Burns at first suggested that Cochran-Patrick and Coats should buy it privately between them. Everyone seems to have had great difficulty in dealing with Gray, but eventually some sort of arrangement was worked out which enabled Cochran-Patrick and Carfrae to get some of their wants, while much went to Coats and huge prices were paid by Samuel Addington for some of the outstanding rarities.

During 1875 Burns completed his first numismatic paper for the Antiquaries, in which he demolished Lindsay's attribution of some Ethelred imitations to certain kings of the Hebrides.¹¹ The next year saw the appearance of a *Catalogue of a series of Coins and Medals illustrative of Scottish numismatics and history selected from the cabinet of Thomas Coats, Esq. of Ferguslie and exhibited at the meeting of the British Association held in Glasgow, Sept. 1876*. The forty-four pages of this catalogue show what a detailed and extensive knowledge of Scottish coinage Burns already possessed. According to Sim, Burns had spent the last seven years of his life almost uninterruptedly in working on the book. But he was working very seriously on the subject prior to 1879, and may already have had his book in mind, since on 5 January 1877, he wrote to Cochran-Patrick suggesting that they might visit foreign museums together to inspect their Scottish coins and saying, with reference to the museum in Edinburgh, 'I am giving one forenoon each week to the minute study of the Scotch coins there, so as to be keeping my mind on the subject till I can give to it my undivided attention.' Especially in the age before electric lights the mornings were best for detailed work on coins, as Burns had inferred

to Cochran-Patrick on an earlier occasion (6 March 1875) - 'I can avail myself of any forenoon which may be convenient for you, & have good daylight for viewing your coins.' The visit to Paisley in the summer, his increasing business with Coats, and deferment of the publication of his work on David I all suggest the idea of a book based on the Ferguslie collection may have been put to Burns as early as 1875 or 1876.

Burns must, however, have quickly resolved that his book should also include relevant coins from other sources, notably the collection of the Antiquaries, which had recently been greatly enriched by the acquisition of the cabinet of the Faculty of Advocates. His work was certainly stimulated by the discovery in 1877 at Montrave, Fife, of a huge hoard ranging from Alexander III to David II, and from Edward I to Edward III, which not only provided extensive material for the Scottish coinage of the period but also enabled him to work out a classification of the Edwardian series which had defeated English scholars up to that time; and in 1880 of a hoard of Robert III groats at Fortrose, Cromarty, the publication of which shows that Burns's ideas on the series were already well developed.¹² Much of his research had been completed by the time that Coats

¹¹ 'On Coins Attributed by Mr Lindsay to Kings of the Hebrides,' *Proceedings of the Scottish Antiquarian Society* 11 (1876-7), 225-33.

¹² 'Descriptive Notice of the Coins in the Fortrose Hoard, with Notes on the Corresponding Gold Coinage of Scotland,' *Proceedings Scottish Antiquarian Society* 14 (1879-80), 186-219.

died in October, 1883, and the book contains a touching tribute to his patron.

On 16 April, 1884 Burns wrote to Cochran-Patrick:

I extremely regretted not seeing you when you did me the honour of calling upon me last Thursday. In order to get on the quicker with my *Coinage of Scotland* I find that the taking to myself of an off-day every week is of service, & Thursday as being the middle of the week is usually my off-day, which I spend in the country... I shall be able to send you some more proofs soon. There are a good few pages in print, but I could not send a proof as there were your coins and Mr Kermack Ford's coins to be added and the printers hope to get some more letters cut... Would you kindly say if you think the new French process by which your Scottish medals are being done would suit for small Scottish coins. If so it would be a very great advantage for my work as the plates would always be to the fore if wanted for any subsequent occasion.

When Burns himself died suddenly, of heart disease, in March 1886, in his sixty-fourth year, he had seen the first volume through the press. The second volume was partly in proof and partly in manuscript, and the casts for the plates had been made but not assembled. At the request of Coats's son, George Sim reluctantly agreed to complete the work, a task in which he readily acknowledged the assistance he had received from Anderson and Pollexfen. The *Scotsman's* reviewer paid tribute to Sim's contribution in the fol-

lowing words:

By his strenuous application to the uncongenial but absolutely essential labour of editing, verifying, revising, and comparing descriptions with coins and casts, the second volume was at length prepared, and the casts arranged for the plates of the third. Although he had become enfeebled in health before this was accomplished, he continued to revise the proofs, and pushed forward the work almost as long as he had the strength to do anything; and it gave him great satisfaction when at last he was able to send them finally to press.

With the death of Coats, Burns and Sim before the book was published, we may be thankful that it was nevertheless so successfully completed. Although the chapter on Charles I contains a number of errors which caused difficulty for subsequent scholars, most of the second volume is as carefully done as the first, and the book immediately received the recognition which it has held ever since as one of the outstanding achievements of numismatic scholarship. The reviewer in the *Athenaeum* (no. 3165, 23 June 1888) called it a 'grand sequel' to Cochran-Patrick's *Records*:

We call it a sequel as Mr Cochran-Patrick gives no detailed descriptions of the coins themselves, but only inserts at the end of his work a series of plates which serve as a key to the records. Mr Burns only refers to the records when he wishes to strengthen his arguments in the classification of the various series; but he describes very fully all the types of the coins,

with complete notes explanatory of his arrangement. In fact, these two important treatises bear the same relation to each other as Hawkins's 'Silver Coinage' and Kenyon's 'Gold Coinage of England' bear to Ruding, but with this difference, that the general arrangement and description of the Scottish coins are much more clearly set forth than in the case of the English series.

Noting that it had 'long been known to those interested in Scottish numismatics that Mr Burns held special views respecting the classification of certain portions of the Scottish series,' he went on to ask, with regard to the pennies of Edward I-III, 'what will English numismatists say when they hear that their classification of the coinages of these three kings has been entirely wrong?'

To read what Edward Burns wrote is to get the flavour of a remarkable man - meticulous, perceptive, thoughtful and thorough; strong, and even combative, in his views when occasion required; but always honourable in his dealings and courteous in manner. It is satisfying to reflect that most of the cross fleury coins of David I in our cabinets today were so carefully examined, studied and recorded by him personally in 1875. In fact many of them were not just

handled by Burns, as emerges from some passages in his correspondence. On 8 February 1875 he wrote to Cochran-Patrick 'all forenoon I have been engaged upon the Davids. My principal effort just now is to try & bring out the letters. I have four under my feet at present,' and in his next letter (15 February), referring to a penny of Stephen, he says 'I have tramped out one or two more letters of the mint.' These curious expressions are explained in a letter he had written to Cochran-Patrick on 8 September 1874:

I should like much to have subjected the interesting Alex long cross penny, of which you have favored me with a reading, to the process by which I have made a few refractory coins give a satisfactory account of themselves - i.e. putting them (wrapped in a small bit of paper) under my heel (inside of the stocking) and walking about with them for a day or two. In this way I have brought out letters, of which not a glimpse was to be seen before.

Those who, a century later, today handle coins of David I described by Burns in *The Coinage of Scotland* may therefore feel a closer and more personal link than they had hitherto imagined with the author of that great and enduring work.

A NEW CD-ROM ON SCOTTISH COINAGE

Published by the National Museums of Scotland, *Scottish Currency* is a richly illustrated guide to the coins, bank notes and tokens produced in Scotland from the 12th to the 20th centuries. A review will appear in the next issue of *The Asylum*. For more information contact NMS Publishing, Royal Museum, Chambers St., Edinburgh EH1 1JF Scotland or email cara@nms.ac.uk

The Printer's Devil: Samuel Breck and his *Historical Sketch Of Continental Paper Money*

by Joel J. Orosz

Only a handful of American numismatic references can trace their lineage to the antebellum era. Among them, very few have the cachet of Samuel Breck's *Historical Sketch of Continental Paper Money*. Sheer earliness made it special; it was first published in 1843 when the 'bookshelf' of American numismatic publications would not fill a single bookshelf. Scholarly credentials made it special; it was included in the prestigious *Transactions of the Historical and Literary Committee of the American Philosophical Society*. Persistent demand made it special; in 1863, it became the first American numismatic imprint of any kind to be reprinted as a free-standing booklet, and also in the same year, it became the first American numismatic imprint to be plagiarised. Despite all these marks of distinction, however, very little has appeared in the numismatic press about the history of this publication, or about its author, who was a man of conscience as well as a man of currency.

Samuel Breck enjoyed a remarkable life by any measure. Born 17 July 1771, when George III was still sovereign over the American provinces, he did not die until 31 August 1862, when Abraham Lincoln anguished over how best to preserve the

rebellion-wracked Union. In the more than 90 years from 1771 to 1862, Breck distinguished himself as a merchant, politician, humanitarian and numismatist.

According to the *Dictionary of American Biography*, Breck's life was anything but Horatio Alger-ish. Born in Boston of old Puritan stock, he grew up in the family mansion fronting the Common. In 1779, Breck's father, also named Samuel, was appointed by Louis XVI to be fiscal agent of the French forces then engaged in America. The younger Samuel was sent off to school in France for four years, from 1783 to 1787. In 1790, the elder Samuel gave his son the huge sum of \$10,000 to begin his own shipping business. Two years later, in search of a healthier climate (in terms of both weather and taxation), the entire Breck family moved to Philadelphia, Pa.

The Breck family thrived in the City of Brotherly Love, just as they had in the city of the bean and the cod. The younger Samuel parlayed success in business into a career in politics. He entered the Pennsylvania Senate in 1817, serving until 1821. Breck was elected to the 18th United States Congress in 1822, as one of the last of the Federalists, but was not re-elected because he alone of the

Pennsylvania delegation, when the election of 1824 was thrown into the House of Representatives, voted for John Quincy Adams for President.

This was not his only principled, but costly act. In February of 1821, while still serving in the Pennsylvania Senate, he introduced a bill for the emancipation of all slaves still remaining in the state. Abolitionists were widely regarded as fanatics in the early decades of the nineteenth century, and though Pennsylvania eventually abolished servitude within its borders, Breck was not re-elected to the state Senate because of his stand.

Samuel Breck's political career ended in 1825, but his career as a volunteer and philanthropist was just beginning. He was a founder of the Society of Sons of New England, served as president of the Philadelphia Athenaeum, vice president of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania and president of the Pennsylvania Institution for the Instruction of the Blind, about which more will be said later.

In addition to all of this, Samuel Breck was also a numismatist. Exactly what he collected is not known, although it is safe to assume that his cabinet contained specimens of the Continental paper money about which he wrote. We also know that he was well acquainted with the small circle of antebellum Philadelphia numismatists, including Jacob Giles Morris and Robert M. Patterson, M.D., the

sixth director of the United States Mint, both of whom served with Breck on the board of the Pennsylvania Institution for the Instruction of the Blind.

Even as Breck ably discharged these civic obligations, he found the time for scholarship. According to the *Dictionary of American Biography*, 'His many historical addresses and dissertations, though of minor importance, are notable for their erudition and polish, the most important being his essay on 'Continental Paper Money.'

Be that as it may, Breck's *Historical Sketch of Continental Paper Money* made a definite impression upon numismatists of the day, at least partly due to its timing. Only the year before, Jacob Eckfeldt and William E. DuBois had written *A Manual of Gold and Silver Coins of All Nations*, the first book that provided a general survey of American numismatics. This followed the 1839 publication of what is generally conceded to be the first book solely on an American numismatic topic, namely Joseph Felt's *Historical Account of Massachusetts Coinage*. The thrill of discovery was in the air, and Breck's *Historical Sketch* added to the excitement. Then, too, the publication appeared under the aegis of the American Philosophical Society, the nation's oldest and most prestigious learned society (its founder, in 1731, was Benjamin Franklin).

This accounts for the reception, but what was Breck's motivation for writing the *Historical*

Sketch? Samuel Breck kept a diary for much of his life, portions of which have been reprinted in the *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*. The entry for 13 June 1840, provides both an answer to this question, and a brief summary of the Historical Sketch itself:

My journal has been neglected for more than a month. During that time I have written an historical sketch of the Old Continental Money, which I designed under Providence, to read before the Philosophical Society. It is in a quarto book, where I have pasted specimens of those bills, which were issued in the years 1775-76-77-78 and 79, to the amount of 200 millions. For the first two years they passed pretty nearly at par, because the amount did not much exceed the amount required for currency. That amount was about 30 millions of dollars paper, and 10 millions specie. But when millions upon millions were put forth in addition, prices rose twentyfold, and the bills depreciated accordingly, so that Congress at last circulated them at the rate of 40 for one!!

This money gave us our Independence, then fell to one thousand for one! It died unhonored, and unfortunately, unwept, for it was never paid off, and no one regretted its loss. Hard money took its place. And altho' thousands, who had confidence in those who issued it and promised to pay it, were ruined, yet it had its day of extreme usefulness, and by depreciating gradually operated like a tax upon those thro' whose hands it passed, sinking a little of its value with each one

With the exception of the first three sentences, all of this journal entry is restated in the published version of the *Historical Sketch*. These three unpublished sentences, however, contain much new information. It is interesting to note that Breck wrote the *Historical Sketch* in a little more than a month. Apparently, the original manuscript was bound into a quarto book, wherein Breck pasted specimens of Continental notes. Charles Davis, in his *American Numismatic Literature*, notes that when Breck's article was first published in *The Transactions of the Historical and Literary Committee of the American Philosophical Society*, Vol. 3, part 1 (1843), it included two engraved plates, each illustrating three Continental notes. No doubt the plates depict the originals pasted in Breck's quarto volume. I am unaware of the current whereabouts of this volume, or indeed, if it still exists at all.

The initial publication, in the Philosophical Society's *Transactions*, certainly could not have long satisfied the demand for the information contained therein. It is true that but a handful of people in Philadelphia collected coins in 1843 (William DuBois, writing in the *American Journal of Numismatics* for July 1872, writes of four: Joseph Mickley, Jacob Giles Morris, DuBois himself, and an unnamed fourth person, possibly Dr. Lewis Roper). But when one adds the collecting

communities of Boston, New York City, and Baltimore, plus small colonies located in villages like Salem, Massachusetts, there was demand enough to make reprints a necessity.

The only source of information about reprints of the *Historical Sketch* from 1843 through 1863, comes from the Preface of the free-standing reprint published in 1863 by 'A.C. Kline.' As your columnist has demonstrated in *The Curious Case of the Coin Collectors Kline*, published by Bowers and Merena in 1997, 'A.C. Kline' was in fact the coin collector/dealer John W. Kline. In the reprint's preface, Kline states that the *Historical Sketch* was:

... read in 1843 by the late Samuel Breck, Esq., a well-known citizen of Philadelphia, before the American Philosophical Society, and about the same time he caused it to be printed and circulated among his friends. It was shortly afterwards re-published, with some omissions, in *Frazier's Magazine*, since which time it is believed never to have appeared in print.

There are a number of problems with this history. First, as Davis notes in *American Numismatic Literature*, there seems to be no reliable way of making a firm distinction between the article as published in the American Philosophical Society's *Transactions*, and the offprint Kline claims that Breck created in or around 1843. No copies seen contain any printed or physical evidence of being a separate offprint. It is entirely possible, as Davis notes, that

numismatists simply removed signatures from the *Transactions*, and that no offprint was created at all.

The second problem lies in Kline's assertion that a reprint appeared in *Frazier's Magazine*. Davis records no sale, during the years 1980-91, of a reprint from that source, and your columnist has never encountered such a reprint. This is not conclusive evidence that Kline was wrong, but it does call the attribution into question. Certainly, if such a reprint ever existed, and if one still does exist somewhere, it is a *rara avis* indeed.

The first reprint that can be confirmed appeared in the *National Magazine*, Vol. I, Number 1, June 1845. According to that inaugural issue, the purpose of the magazine was to convey 'a knowledge of our actual progress in the scale of nations; and it is precisely that information which it is the object of this work to impart—for now it is nowhere imbodyed [sic] and placed on record.' The reprint of Breck's *Historical Sketch* occupied pp. 17-34, with no introductory material or notes. Also of numismatic interest in this issue was an unsigned biographical sketch of David Rittenhouse, and a brief article entitled 'Currency of the United States,' by J. DePeyster Ogden of New York.

The *National Magazine* was an organ of the Whig party, which believed in a strong central government and federally funded internal improvements, such as canals and turnpikes.

Samuel Breck was a Federalist in his politics, but when that political party disintegrated in the 1820s, he gave his allegiance to the Whigs. It makes sense, therefore, that Breck would consent to having his essay reprinted in this Whig-affiliated journal.

An intriguing question presents itself: Might the *National Magazine* and *Frazier's Magazine* have been one and the same? The *National Magazine* reprint appeared shortly after the original *Historical Sketch* (just as Kline asserted that the *Frazier's Magazine* reprint had), and both reprints appeared with some omissions. Might a Mr. Frazier have been the publisher of the *National Magazine*, and if so, might 'Frazier's' have become its informal name? Perhaps more research could prove or disprove this interesting possibility.

In any case, the second documented resurrection of Breck's *Historical Sketch* was the aforementioned Kline reprint of 1863. John W. Kline became the first person to issue a free-standing reprint of an American numismatic work when he published both octavo (standard size) and quarto (large paper) versions of the *Historical Sketch* in November of 1863. Kline was quite clear as to his motivations for doing so:

This pamphlet [referring to the offprint supposedly issued by Breck] has now become of such rarity that its purchase is an utter impossibility, while at the same time an almost universal desire to obtain everything connected with

the History of Continental Paper Money, has caused considerable inquiry to be made for it.

The octavo version was a 33-page booklet, with green paper wrappers, carrying an ad for A.C. Kline's coin shop on the back cover. Kline reprinted Breck's text in full, and added an appendix with a list of Bills of Credit emitted by Congress from 1775 to 1779. Davis notes three sales of Kline's octavo reprint from 1980 to 1991. The large-paper version was issued to the extent of 50 copies, with massive three-inch margins. Davis notes just one sale, of number 42, in 1980. Another copy, number 19, was lot 3192 in auctions by Bowers and Merena's sale of the Armand Champa library, part 4, in 1995. This suggests that the survival rates of Kline reprints have been very low in both formats.

Kline was not the last to reprint the *Historical Sketch*. It appeared yet again, in serial form, in Ebenezer Locke Mason, Jr.'s house organ, *Mason's Coin and Stamp Collectors Magazine*. The serialisation lasted for 17 consecutive monthly issues. Mason was among the earliest of the full-time coin dealers in America, having hung out his shingle in Philadelphia during the election year of 1860. He seems to have possessed the quarrelsome nature of his fellow Ebenezer, Scrooge, but without Scrooge's knack for success in business. At any rate, the prickly Mr. Mason began to serialise his reprint of Breck's *Historical Sketch* in Volume III, Number 5 (May 1869) of his publication.

Each of the succeeding 16 issues (through Volume IV, No. 9, September 1870), carried a few paragraphs of the *Historical Sketch* with a notation at the end: 'To be continued.' This notation is also found at the end of the September 1870 issue, but no continuation appeared in the number for October. Although Mason's magazine lasted for six volumes, Mason never completed the serialisation, nor did he ever explain his reasons for the abrupt termination. Perhaps the morsel-a-month format caused readers to lose interest; after 17 instalments, Mason had managed to get only to the bottom of page 28 of the original, less than three-quarters of the way through.

There is also another 'reprinting' of Breck's *Historical Sketch*, but this one was of an uncredited and discreditable nature. Sadly, the responsibility for this misbegotten venture rests squarely upon the shoulders of Benson J. Lossing (1813-1891), an otherwise respectable American historian. During the 1850s, Lossing had won deserved renown for visiting sites of historical importance, and writing illustrated histories based upon his research. His *Pictorial Field Book of the Revolution*, published in instalments from 1850 to 1852, was a best seller, and as Q. David Bowers has demonstrated in *American Numismatics Before the Civil War*, his illustrations provided the source for the design of many of Augustus B. Sage's numismatic tokens. Indeed,

Lossing was held in high enough regard among numismatists to be named the first Honorary Member of the American Numismatic Society, in 1858.

Early in 1863, Lossing attempted to add to his numismatic lustre by publishing an article entitled, 'Continental Money,' in *Harper's New Monthly Magazine*, at the time America's foremost mass circulation monthly. Lossing rose to the occasion, producing a 14-page article illustrated with 35 woodcuts of Continental money, along with three charts, all published in *Harper's* March 1863 issue. Lossing's article was somewhat longer than Breck's, and certainly far better illustrated, as compared to the two plates that had appeared in the *Philosophical Society's Transactions*. It seemed that Lossing's effort had replaced Breck's as the standard text on the subject.

A closer reading, however, told a different story, and one such reader was 'Antiquarian,' a pseudonym, in George Frederick Kolbe's opinion, for Henry Phillips (1838-1895), author of the scholarly *Continental Paper Money*, published in 1866. Antiquarian set out to review Lossing's article for the *Historical Magazine*, which specialised in printing a wide array of documents relating to American history, and which served as the nation's leading numismatic periodical from its founding in 1857 until the establishment of the *American Journal of Numismatics* in 1866. According

to 'Antiquarian,' the review grew too long to be published in the *Historical Magazine*, and hence had to be published privately as a pamphlet. However, the review of Antiquarian's pamphlet, as published in the *Historical Magazine* for July 1863, suggests another story, namely that it was too vindictive for the magazine to print. The reviewer called the contents of Antiquarian's pamphlet 'sharp, severe, and personal.'

To call Antiquarian's review of Lossing's article 'sharp, severe, and personal,' was much like calling Jonathan Swift's 'A Modest Proposal' slightly sarcastic. Antiquarian set the tone in his very first paragraph, by dismissing Lossing's article as 'a wretched conglomerate of miscellaneous ignorance, replete with errors, and in some instances what might deserve a harsher name.' Antiquarian did catch Lossing in numerous errors, such as a claim on the very first page of his article that Massachusetts was the first of the American provinces to have issued paper money. The reviewer then proceeded to demonstrate that it was actually the seventh. Lossing committed many other historical blunders in his article, and Antiquarian dissected each with great relish, including references to non-existent notes, and errors in the numerous illustrations.

Even more damning, Antiquarian caught Lossing lifting information from Breck's work without proper attribution.

In several places, the two articles agree word for word, without any mention of Lossing's debt to Breck. The last paragraph of the Lossing article consists of a verbatim quote of a paragraph from the *Historical Sketch*, which Lossing claims he received in a letter from Breck. Sarcastically, Antiquarian retorted, 'It is astonishing what an anticipatory plagiarist Mr. Breck has been' This shot is but a warm-up; later, Antiquarian mobilised a pun to make his point: 'Mr. Breck's pamphlet, though not entirely correct nor complete, is far preferable to this later fiasco. We trust next time, Mr. Breck will meet with a more honest and more able exponent, the 'loss-in' whose hands will not be so great.' And, lest anyone still be unclear as to his opinion, Antiquarian reiterated: 'Mr. Breck's pamphlet, though very far from being correct or complete, was the work of a polished scholar, and we greatly prefer it to the abortion which has been thrust upon us.'

Antiquarian had truth, if not tact, on his side. Breck had died a mere seven months before Lossing published 'Continental Money' in *Harper's*, and Kline's reprint of Breck's *Historical Sketch* was still seven months in the future. The scholarly Lossing, who probably knew of Breck's *Historical Sketch*, as published in the Philosophical Society's *Transactions*, may well have given way to temptation. The obscure publication of a deceased man might be safely

raided, and essentially copied, in an ostensibly new article. Lossing did not, however, count on Phillips, and his 'borrowing' was rudely exposed.

Antiquarian's blunderbuss attack on Lossing verged on the libellous, but the fact that it was printed privately limited the damage done to the historian. Lossing continued his career, publishing *The Pictorial Field Book of the War of 1812*, in 1868, and is still remembered positively among historians. Lossing never again tried his hand at numismatic subjects, however, and the task of superseding Breck fell to Henry Phillips.

In spite of the relative obscurity into which the Lossing plagiarism incident has fallen, Breck's *Historical Sketch of Continental Paper Money* is well remembered by today's collectors of numismatic literature. It was first in its field, and the assorted reprints demonstrate the continuing demand for it decades after its initial publication. Almost totally forgotten, however, are two other Breck imprints that relate to American numismatics, *A Short Biography of Robert M. Patterson, M.D.*, and *Sketch of the Benevolent Services of the Late Jacob G. Morris in the Pennsylvania Institution for the Instruction of the Blind and other Charitable Institutions in the City of Philadelphia*. Both were published at the end of 1854, the former in November, the latter in October.

Robert Maskell Patterson, the sixth director of the United States Mint, served as a member

of the board of managers of the Pennsylvania Institution for the Instruction of the Blind from 1838 to 1854, and during a portion of that time, Breck was the president of the board.

The first work is a 16-page octavo biography of Patterson, and it contains some interesting titbits, such as the notation that Patterson occasionally hosted meetings of the Institution's board of governors in his office at the Mint. Most notable, though, is a quotation from a postscript to the letter that Thomas Jefferson wrote in 1805 to Patterson's father Robert, appointing him the fourth director of the United States Mint. Jefferson wrote 'that the duties of the Mint will easily admit your devoting the ordinary college hours to the University of Pennsylvania [where the elder Patterson was then a professor]. Indeed, it is so possible that the Mint may some time or other be discontinued, that I could not advise a permanent living be given up for it.'

Breck's second memorial volume focused on a numismatist who had no need to be concerned about permanent livings. Jacob Giles Morris (1800-1854) was the descendent of whole families of Philadelphia bluebloods. On his father's side, an ancestor was a Revolutionary War hero. On his mother's side, he was related (first cousin, once removed) to the eminent physician Caspar Wistar, author of the first American text on anatomy, and in whose honour the flowering shrub wisteria is

named. Morris was reared in luxury, and received a thorough classical education. He was also civic-minded, and served with distinction as a board member of the Pennsylvania Institution for the Instruction of the Blind; in fact, he even briefly served as interim chief executive officer of that institution.

Morris was also a blueblood among pioneering American numismatists. As early as 1839, Robert M. Patterson wrote of selling duplicates from the Mint's coin cabinet to Morris in order to augment the cabinet's paltry acquisitions budget. Morris collected by type, so he did not concern himself with date sequences or mint marks, but his collecting tastes were omnivorous, encompassing U.S., world, and ancient coins and medals. In the memorial, Breck noted of Morris that he 'owned, perhaps, the best selected and largest private cabinet of coins in the country. He was for many years eagerly engaged in making this collection, especially in Italy and Germany. At Rome, Vienna and Berlin, his success was such that he visited those cities again and again; always adding to his antique treasure of precious medals.'

Breck's work provides us with our best glimpse of this notable, but now largely forgotten antebellum coin collector. If Breck is correct, Morris' collection deserves to be ranked among the 'big three' of pre-Civil War numismatists: Joseph Mickley, Matthew Stickney, and Robert Gilmore, Jr. And, given

Morris' frequent collecting trips to Europe, it seems likely that his cabinet was richer in world and ancient coins and medals than those of his contemporaries.

We will never know for sure; Morris was lost at sea after the SS *Arctic* collided with another steamer and sank. Morris' coins went to his sister, then to his niece, but later apparently were scattered. A significant number went to the University of Pennsylvania, but most of them were later sold to B. Max Mehl. Lyman Low auctioned the rest in two 1901 sales. Interestingly, one of Morris' nephews was Richard Wistar Davids, a notable antebellum collector in his own right. Numismatic bibliophiles will remember him as the cataloguer of the New York State Library's coin collection, for which separate volumes were issued in 1853 and 1854. Davids added to the family reputation in more than numismatics; he served with distinction as a captain in the 118th Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers, and was killed in action while fighting with the 118th on the second day of the Battle of Gettysburg.

Samuel Breck did not live to learn of Davids' heroic death. As the Civil War began, he reached his ninetieth year. According to the *Dictionary of American Biography*, he attended a patriotic meeting soon after the fall of Fort Sumter, and at its close, he sprang to his feet and called for three cheers for the United States, adding 'I was a man

when they were formed, and God forbid that I should live to witness their downfall.' A year later, as he lay paralysed on his death bed, upon hearing cheering news from the front, he moved his lips wordlessly, then with difficulty raised his only sound hand and waved it three times, as if in triumph. He died on 31 August 1862, and according to *Who Was Who in America*, he is buried in St. Peter's Churchyard in Philadelphia.

Breck left later generations a legacy of noteworthy accomplishments. He sacrificed his

time for the blind and his political career for slaves. For numismatists, he created the first study of the paper money that helped finance our nation's independence (indeed, one of the first American numismatic studies of any sort). In his other works he preserved memories of early numismatists who would otherwise have been lost to posterity. Well did he deserve, on his death bed, to wave his hand in triumph. Samuel Breck died as he had lived, fighting the good fight and ultimately winning.

Get on Board with The E-Sylum the weekly e-mail newsletter of the **Numismatic Bibliomania Society**

Hundreds of bibliophiles around the U.S. and the world subscribe to this free publication, containing news and information about NBS and numismatic literature in general.

To subscribe, write to Wayne Homren at
whomren@coinlibrary.com

For more information, see the NBS web site at
<http://www.coinbooks.org/>

THANK YOU

The four part series of auction sales of the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Numismatic Library is now history. The total proceeds of 1.1 million dollars has set a new record for the sale of a numismatic library at auction.

To Harry Bass, a special thank you is due. His quest for knowledge, his vision, and his discernment culminated in the formation of one of the finest American Numismatic Libraries ever assembled. American numismatic researchers and bibliophiles will be forever in his debt. Harry acquired, and carefully preserved, irreplaceable manuscript and printed numismatic artifacts when few others cared. We are indebted to the Harry Bass Research Foundation for making this remarkable storehouse of numismatic information available to those who value it most. And, to all the numismatic researchers and bibliophiles who participated in the Bass Library Sales, a very special thank you is due. You are the new custodians.

GEORGE FREDERICK KOLBE **Fine Numismatic Books**

P. O. Drawer 3100 • Crestline, CA 92325-3100
Telephone: (909) 338-6527 • Fax: (909) 338-6980

email: NUMISLIT@COMPUSERVE.COM

web site: NUMISLIT.COM

ANA Life Member 2316

**FINE
NUMISMATIC
BOOKS
ANY LANGUAGE
ANY PERIOD
ALWAYS WANTED**



SPINK

founded 1666

69 SOUTHAMPTON ROW BLOOMSBURY,
LONDON WC1B 4ET. TEL: 020 7563 4000
FAX: 020 7563 4066 <http://www.spink-online.com>

SIX CLASSIC WORKS

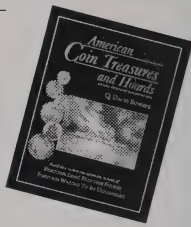
by Q. David Bowers

AMERICAN COIN TREASURES AND HOARDS

Twenty-two chapters are filled with stories of treasures hidden, lost, found, and some waiting to be found. 456 pages, profusely illustrated.

Hardbound. Stock No. BBM-404.

List \$59.95

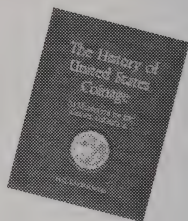


THE HISTORY OF UNITED STATES COINAGE

Covers all American series from colonials to territorial gold, half cents to \$20 gold. Equivalent to a university course in coins. 572 pages, illustrated.

Hardbound. Stock No. BBM-130.

List \$59.95



LOUIS E. ELIASBERG, SR.

KING OF COINS

A wonderful book chronicling the life of this magnificent collector and his fascinating collection which, when sold, realized \$44 million! 176 pages, illustrated. Second printing.

Hardbound. Stock No. BBM-146A.

List \$62.50



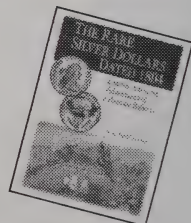
THE RARE SILVER DOLLARS DATED 1804

AND THE EXCITING ADVENTURES OF EDMUND ROBERTS

Take a ride on the *U.S.S. Peacock* as it delivers the "King of Coins" to the Sultan of Muscat. Includes over 100 biographies of numismatists and particulars about each 1804 Silver Dollar.

Hardbound. Stock No. BBM-407.

List \$69.95

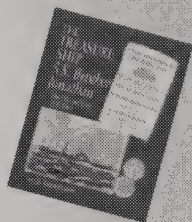


THE TREASURE SHIP S.S. BROTHER JONATHAN

Chronicles of this ill-fated vessel, its loss and recovery, plus stories of the Gold Rush in San Francisco and a history of the San Francisco Mint. 416 pages, illustrated.

Hardbound. Stock No. BBM-406.

List \$69.95



UNITED STATES GOLD COINS: AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY

The definitive work on American gold coins. When Secretary of the Treasury James Baker wanted to know about gold coins, he consulted this book Award winner. 415 pages, illustrated.

Hardbound. Stock No. BBM-135.

List \$57.95



Books are the key to collecting pleasure and success! We offer you dozens of titles to enhance your enjoyment of coins, provide interesting and informative reading, and contribute to your numismatic bottom line. Buying books from Bowers and Merena has the added advantage of being a financially rewarding experience as our discounts are hard to beat. Each and every title is offered at a 10% discount from the list price or, if the list prices of the books in your order total \$100 or more, **take a 20% discount!!!** Order liberally and with the confidence of knowing each purchase you make comes with a 30-day money-back guarantee of satisfaction! Call Mary in our Publication Department to order these numismatic "must-haves" at 1-800-222-5993!

BOWERS AND MERENA GALLERIES

— *A Collectors Universe™ Company* —

Box 1224 ♦ Wolfeboro, NH 03894 ♦ 800-222-5993 ♦ In NH: 569-5095 ♦ Fax: (603) 569-5319

www.bowersandmerena.com ♦ e-mail: directsales@bowersandmerena.com



Wanted for Outright Purchase

- Out-of-print standard references on ancient and modern numismatics
- Antiquarian books printed before 1800
- Fine bindings

Selling

- We have a good stock of out-of-print books and selected in-print titles.
- Data base list of more than 2000 books and catalogs on ancient and medieval numismatics available for \$5.

See our new Website for all of these lists and more

www.numismaticliterature.com

Images of the Illustrious:

The Numismatic Presence in the Renaissance

by: John Cunnally. Princeton New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1999. xi, (3), 230 pp, well illustrated in the text. Octavo, cloth with d.j. Price \$50, postpaid (Book rate U.S.A. and overseas)

From the dust jacket: "Images of the Illustrious is an introduction and a guide to the numismatic scholarship of the Renaissance - the coin collections and illustrated coin-books produced by humanists and artists of the sixteenth century. Ancient Greek and Roman coins were the most abundant and portable remains of antiquity throughout Renaissance Europe, and were avidly collected as treasures, studied as documents, exchanged as gifts, admired as art, venerated as relics, and cherished as talismans of antique virtue. The ubiquitous presence of these coins, the author argues, made the lost world of the ancients accessible, comprehensible, and concrete to all literate Europeans, and encouraged an attitude toward history as a series of discontinuous scenes and events, driven by the ambitious and self-seeking individuals whose striking faces appear on the coins. Illustrated with many examples of the elegant art of the Renaissance coin-books, *Images of the Illustrious* ends with a comprehensive descriptive bibliography of the sixteenth-century numismatists and their books."

John F. Bergman Numismatic Literature

4223 Iroquois Ave. / Lakewood, CA 90713 / USA

Fax: 562 421 0171 Tel: 562 421 0171 (10AM-8PM, 7 days)

E-mail: john@numismaticliterature.com

- ☐ 9. 'Book Review: The Soho Mint and the Industrialization of Money (Richard Doty)' by Carl Honore. (v17, No. 2)
- ☐ 10. 'Armand Champa vs. The Fuld Library' by George Fuld (v17, No. 2)
- ☐ 11. 'More on Bude's De Asse' by William Malkmus (v17, No. 2)
- ☐ 12. 'Research Aids: catalogs, NBS Friends & Serendipity' by Ed Price (v17, No. 2)
- ☐ 13. 'The Printer's Devil: Daniel Groux's 'Descriptive Catalogue' for the Maryland Historical Society and the Coins of Joel Barlow' by Joel J. Orosz (v17, No. 3)
- ☐ 14. 'Between the Covers' by Bill Murray (v17, No. 3)
- ☐ 15. 'E-Sylum Compliments Asylum for Numismatic Literature Collectors' by William T. Gibbs (v17, No. 3)
- ☐ 16. 'The Numismatist: The First Six Volumes: Where Are They Now?' by David J. Sklow (v17, No. 3)

Wanted for Outright Purchase

- Out-of-print standard references on ancient and modern numismatics
- Antiquarian books printed before 1800
- Fine bindings

Selling

- We have a good stock of out-of-print books and selected in-print titles.
- Data base list of more than 2000 books and catalogs on ancient and medieval numismatics available for \$5.

See our new Website for all of these lists and more

www.numismaticliterature.com

Images of the Illustrious:

The Numismatic Presence in the Renaissance

by: John Cunnally. Princeton New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1999. xi, (3), 230 pp, well illustrated in the text. Octavo, cloth with d.j. Price \$50, postpaid (Book rate U.S.A. and overseas)

From the dust jacket: "Images of the Illustrious is an introduction and a guide to the numismatic scholarship of the Renaissance - the coin collections and illustrated coin-books produced by humanists and artists of the sixteenth century. Ancient Greek and Roman coins were the most abundant and portable remains of antiquity throughout Renaissance Europe, and were avidly collected as treasures, studied as documents, exchanged as gifts, admired as art, venerated as relics, and cherished as talismans of antique virtue. The ubiquitous presence of these coins, the author argues, made the lost world of the ancients accessible, comprehensible, and concrete to all literate Europeans, and encouraged an attitude toward history as a series of discontinuous scenes and events, driven by the ambitious and self-seeking individuals whose striking faces appear on the coins. Illustrated with many examples of the elegant art of the Renaissance coin-books, *Images of the Illustrious* ends with a comprehensive descriptive bibliography of the sixteenth-century numismatists and their books."

John F. Bergman Numismatic Literature

4223 Iroquois Ave. / Lakewood, CA 90713 / USA

Fax: 562 421 0171 Tel: 562 421 0171 (10AM-8PM, 7 days)

E-mail: john@numismaticliterature.com

Best Asylum Article of 1999

Please vote for no more than three articles. Ballots must be postmarked by 2 August, 2000.

- ☐ 1. 'Between the Covers'
by Bill Murray (v17, No. 1)
- ☐ 2. 'The Printer's Devil: A Glimpse Into the Lost World of Antebellum Coin Dealers'
by Joel J. Orosz (v17, No. 1)
- ☐ 3. 'News from the Net' by
Pete Smith (v17, No. 1)
- ☐ 4. 'The World Turned Upside Down'
Joel J. Orosz (v17, No. 1)
- ☐ 5. 'The Development of the Coin Album, Part Four'
by David W. Lange (v17, No 1-2.)
- ☐ 6. 'News from the Net'
by Pete Smith (v17, No. 2)
- ☐ 7. 'The Printer's Devil: A. P. Wylie, Keeper of the Flame'
by Joel J. Orosz (v17, No. 2)
- ☐ 8. 'Between the Covers'
by Bill Murray (v17, No. 2)
- ☐ 9. 'Book Review: The Soho Mint and the Industrialization of Money (Richard Doty)'
by Carl Honore. (v17, No. 2)
- ☐ 10. 'Armand Champa vs. The Fuld Library'
by George Fuld (v17, No. 2)
- ☐ 11. 'More on Bude's De Asse'
by William Malkmus (v17, No. 2)
- ☐ 12. 'Research Aids: catalogs, NBS Friends & Serendipity'
by Ed Price (v17, No. 2)
- ☐ 13. 'The Printer's Devil: Daniel Groux's 'Descriptive Catalogue' for the Maryland Historical Society and the Coins of Joel Barlow'
by Joel J. Orosz (v17, No. 3)
- ☐ 14. 'Between the Covers'
by Bill Murray (v17, No. 3)
- ☐ 15. 'E-Sylum Compliments Asylum for Numismatic Literature Collectors'
by William T. Gibbs (v17, No. 3)
- ☐ 16. 'The Numismatist: The First Six Volumes: Where Are They Now?'
by David J. Sklow (v17, No. 3)

- ☐ 9. 'Book Review: The Soho Mint and the Industrialization of Money (Richard Doty)' by Carl Honore. (v17, No. 2)
- ☐ 10. 'Armand Champa vs. The Fuld Library' by George Fuld (v17, No. 2)
- ☐ 11. 'More on Bude's De Asse' by William Malkmus (v17, No. 2)
- ☐ 12. 'Research Aids: catalogs, NBS Friends & Serendipity' by Ed Price (v17, No. 2)
- ☐ 13. 'The Printer's Devil: Daniel Groux's 'Descriptive Catalogue' for the Maryland Historical Society and the Coins of Joel Barlow' by Joel J. Orosz (v17, No. 3)
- ☐ 14. 'Between the Covers' by Bill Murray (v17, No. 3)
- ☐ 15. 'E-Sylum Compliments Asylum for Numismatic Literature Collectors' by William T. Gibbs (v17, No. 3)
- ☐ 16. 'The Numismatist: The First Six Volumes: Where Are They Now?' by David J. Sklow (v17, No. 3)

THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO ATTRIBUTING BUST HALF DOLLARS

by Glenn Peterson, M.D.

Available this August, 2000

360 pages, 450 die marriages of bust halves, close-up photos from the country's finest private collections, values, rarity ratings, everything you need to attribute bust halves.

Hard-Bound \$80.00 each ppd.

Spiral-Bound \$80.00 each ppd.

Specially-Bound Edition (40 signed & numbered copies)
\$130.00 each ppd.



MONEY TREE PRESS

Myron Xenos (ANA since 1961)

1260 Smith Ct.

Rocky River, Ohio 44116

PH: 440-333-3444

FAX: 440-333-4463

- ☐ 17. '*Ad Hominem Ad Nauseam*' The 'Great Debate' Between Michael Hodder & Theodore Buttrey'
by Joel J. Orosz (v17, No. 3)
- ☐ 18. 'Eben Locke Mason, Jr. - A Double Life'
by D.R.R. Pepper (v17, No. 4)
- ☐ 19. 'The Printer's Devil: The Tenth Annual 'Shammies' Awards'
by Joel J. Orosz (v17, No. 4)
- ☐ 20. 'Book Review: Lester M. Burzinski's 'Communion Tokens of the World'
by Larry Dziubek (v17, No. 4)
- ☐ 21. 'News from the Net'
by Pete Smith (v17, No. 4)
- ☐ 22. 'George Marion Klein of Vicksburg, Mississippi',
by J. H. McInnis (v17, No. 4)

Please mail your completed ballot to:

John F. Bergman
P.O. Box 1187
Lakewood, CA 90714
USA

The winner will be announced at the annual meeting of the
Numismatic Bibliomania Society on August 11, 2000 at
the American Numismatic Association Convention in
Philadelphia, PA.

THE ULTIMATE GUIDE **TO ATTRIBUTING** **BUST HALF DOLLARS**

by Glenn Peterson, M.D.

Available this August, 2000

360 pages, 450 die marriages of bust halves, close-up photos from the country's finest private collections, values, rarity ratings, everything you need to attribute bust halves.

Hard-Bound \$80.00 each ppd.

Spiral-Bound \$80.00 each ppd.

Specially-Bound Edition (40 signed & numbered copies)
\$130.00 each ppd.



MONEY TREE PRESS

Myron Xenos (ANA since 1961)

1260 Smith Ct.

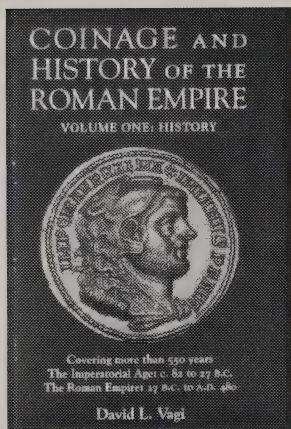
Rocky River, Ohio 44116

PH: 440-333-3444

FAX: 440-333-4463

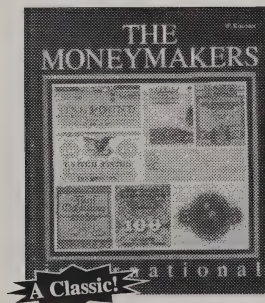
The Coinage and History of the Roman Empire

by David L. Vagi



A major all-new work on the Roman Empire, its rulers and its coinage is now available from Coin World Books. Covering over 550 years of Roman coinage and history, this indispensable work contains **284 current biographies with up-to-date values in three grades and over 1,000 coin illustrations.** Current scholarship is used throughout the biographies and catalog listings to set straight the historical record. Hundreds of significant updates in chronology, historical perspective and numismatic attribution make this book indispensable.

- * Item #360-14
- * Volume One: Coinage of the Roman Empire; Volume Two: History of the Roman Empire (volumes not sold separately)
- * Hardcover binding with full color dustjacket
- * 1,296 pages (total)
- * \$94.95 plus shipping (\$5 for each set ordered)



THE MONEymAKERS international

by Willibald Kranister

Beautiful color illustrations throughout

Item #215-31

\$35.00 plus shipping (\$5 for each book ordered)

Limited quantity available

Dealer discounts not available

CoinWorldBooks



Order by phone: 800-253-4555

Order by mail: Coin World Books

Box 150,

Sidney, OH 45365

THE ASYLUM

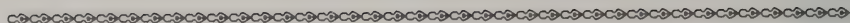
Quarterly Journal of the
Numismatic Bibliomania Society

Volume XVIII, No. 3

Summer 2000

CONTENTS

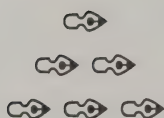
| | |
|--|----|
| President's Message | 66 |
| by Wayne Homren | |
| Behind The Scenes | 68 |
| by Karl Moulton | |
| A Research Query: Gutttag Publications | 71 |
| by Mike Paradis | |
| The Printer's Devil: | |
| Missing Masterpieces: The Twilight Zone | |
| Of American Numismatic Literature | 73 |
| by Joel J. Orosz | |
| The Ken Lowe Library Sale | 80 |
| by John and Nancy Wilson | |
| News From The Net | 84 |
| by Pete Smith | |
| Overprinted Coin Show "Red Books" And Mr. Yeo. . | 89 |
| by John and Nancy Wilson | |
| CD Review: <i>Scottish Currency</i> | 91 |
| by E. Tomlinson Fort | |



*"There is probably no
hell for authors in the
next world—they suffer
so much from critics and
publishers in this."*

CHRISTIAN NESTELL BOVEE

1820-1904



NUMISMATIC BIBLIOMANIA SOCIETY OFFICERS

President

Wayne Homren
1810 Antietam St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15206
whomren@coinlibrary.com

Vice-President

Tom Sheehan,
P. O. Box 1477,
Edmonds, WA 98020,
twsheeh@attglobal.net

Secretary-Treasurer

Dave Hirt
5911 Quinn Orchard Rd.
Frederick, MD 21704

Members of the Board

Bob Metzger, P.O. Box 307, Lakeville, MN 55044-0307, ultrabob@gte.net
Larry Mitchell, Box 902317, Palmdale, CA 93590, numislit@yahoo.com
Bill Murray, 7400 Crestway, Apt. 1423, San Antonio, TX 78239, billmur13@aol.com
Joel Orosz, 4300 Old Field Trail, Kalamazoo, MI 49008, jjo@wkkf.org
Scott Rubin, P.O. Box 6885, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648, P.ScottRubin@worldnet.att.net

The Asylum

Vol. XVIII, No. 3 Consecutive Issue No. 72 SUMMER 2000

Editor: E. Tomlinson Fort

P.O. Box 5035
Pittsburgh, PA 15206
Etfort@aol.com

Editor-in-Chief: Bob Metzger

P.O. Box 307
Lakeville, MN 55044-0307
ultrabob@gte.net

Advertising Rates

| | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Full Page | \$60.00 |
| Inside Front, Inside or Outside Back Cover | 65.00 |
| Half Page | 35.00 |
| Quarter Page | 20.00 |
| Classified | 10¢ per word, minimum \$ 2.50 |

The Asylum is published quarterly. Manuscripts sent to the editor should be accompanied, if possible, by a Macintosh (preferred) or PC (if necessary) compatible disk. For more information please contact the editor.

N.B.S. Membership: \$15.00 annual dues in North America, \$20.00 elsewhere. Members receive all issues of the current volume. Requests for membership should be submitted to the Secretary-Treasurer.

©2000 Numismatic Bibliomania Society

President's Message

by Wayne Homren

Our hobby lost another of its greats on October 18, 2000, with the death of numismatic literature dealer John F. Bergman, after a sudden illness. He was 56 years old. Always a fixture at the Long Beach shows, and a regular attendee of the annual ANA convention, John was as solid and honest as the day is long. An outpouring of tributes came from all corners of the hobby, and many will be published in the next issue of *The Asylum*. John will be sorely missed.

Our Society's annual general meeting at the American Numismatic Association convention in downtown Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was attended by about some 70 bibliophiles. Equally important, our annual fundraising auction raised \$1,450 for our coffers. The detailed results were published in the August 27, 2000 issue of our electronic newsletter, *The E-Sylum*. Thanks again to all of our donors and bidders.

Speaking of meetings at the ANA, NBS Historian Joel Orosz pointed out at our general meeting that the Numismatic Bibliomania Society turned twenty years old that month. This organization was founded officially on August 18, 1980, at a meeting at the ANA

Convention in Cincinnati, Ohio that year. Happy Birthday!

This issue of *The Asylum* contains several articles of interest. Karl Moulton leads off with a "Behind the Scenes" look at the business side of our hobby. Joel Orosz discusses the "Missing Masterpieces" of American numismatic literature. John and Nancy Wilson contribute two articles, on the Lowe library sale and the special ANA Convention "Redbooks". Pete Smith summarizes the "News from the Net", and *Asylum* editor E. Tomlinson Fort provides a review of a new CD-ROM on Scottish Currency.

Finally, a number of members have inquired about Life Membership in NBS. Actually, we do have a Life Membership category, which was created when we adopted our latest Constitution and By-Laws. The cost of the membership is set at 20 times the annual dues, which currently amounts to \$300 in North America, \$400 elsewhere. To convert your membership to Life status, simply send the proper amount to our Secretary, Dave Hirt.

New Members

Michael Billings, Chino Hills,
CA

James P. Bixler, Manitou Springs,
CO

F. Carl Braun, Fort Lauderdale,
FL

Douglas M. Carlson, Naples, FL

Jim Dalzell, Bend, OR

Holger Dombrowski, Munich,
Germany

Cathy Earley, Oaktown, IN

Barry Friedman, Chesapeake, VA

Paul Hybert, Chicago, IL

Scott Loos, Spokane, WA

J.P. Martin, Englewood, CA

Dmitry Melamud, Brooklyn, NY

Marc Merrick, Long Beach, CA

John A. Merz, Easton, MD

Tom Michael, Iola, WI

Douglas Owens, Salt Lake City,
UT

Lawrence W. Paschal Jr.,
Clemmons, NC

Glenn Peterson, Knoxville, TN

Jay J. Pinnell, Tustin, CA

Dr. George A. Randall, Sewell, NJ

Ginger Rapsus, Oak Lawn, IL

William Simon, Jr., Clifton, NJ

Robert Shippee, Greenwich, CT

Robert Typermass, Manhasset,
NY

Ed Zimmerman, Dunwoody, GA

The Numismatic Bibliomania Society Membership Application

I hereby apply for membership in the Numismatic Bibliomania Society. I understand that I will receive the Society's quarterly journal, *The Asylum*.

Name: _____

Street: _____

City : _____ **State:** ____ **Zip:** ____

Phone: _____

Membership dues are \$15.00 in North America, \$20.00 elsewhere. Members receive all copies of the current volume of *The Asylum*.

Return application with payment to:

NUMISMATIC BIBLIOMANIA SOCIETY

DAVID HIRT, SECRETARY

5911 QUINN ORCHARD ROAD

FREDERICK, MD 21704

I hereby make application for membership in the Numismatic Bibliomania Society, subject to the bylaws of the organization.

Signature of Applicant

Date

Behind The Scenes

by Karl Moulton

Recently, one rather disgruntled reader of the E-Sylum, the electronic version of the Asylum, voiced his negative views about buying literature on the internet. His claim was that the book dealer's "packing charges and all just don't hold up." This particular inexperienced literature buyer promptly received responses from three of the country's top numismatic literature dealers.

E-Sylum editor, Wayne Homren asked me for a behind-the-scenes look into what goes on in the numismatic literature business. Though I have only five years as a dealer in this particular field (as compared to George Kolbe who has over 30 years), it is hoped that what is contained in this article will find agreement and people interested in numismatics will gain some insights.

Becoming an American numismatic literature dealer is not an aspiration that many people share. This is easily supported by the following analysis: Since the late 1850's, the beginning of interest in American numismatics in this country, there have been less than two dozen people who have actively "carried the banner" when it comes to selling numismatic literature in all its various forms. For the most part, it was the early coin dealers themselves who sold literature in their auction sales. In many

cases, these dealers sold out of print copies of previous coin auction catalogues. W. Elliot Woodward, a 19th century coin dealer, was the leader in this regard. Currently, there are only about a half dozen individuals who deal in numismatic literature in this country.

Captain Kirk was wrong. Space is not the final frontier, it is a very real problem. Dealers handled an enormous volume of material, tons of it to be exact. For the most part, bibliophiles have a room or two with shelves for their library, while literature dealers are totally surrounded and buried by crammed boxes, overflowing and bending bookcases, huge piles on the floor and even more coming in at the post office. Of course, all this material can be excellent insulation.

This is what truly defines a literature dealer; it's similar to being a professional photographer. Almost everyone has a camera and they shoot around 20 rolls of film a year. A professional photographer shoots thousands of rolls and spends all of his time and energy trying to get the great shots that everyone simply takes for granted.

All literature dealers, whether numismatic or not, spend an enormous amount of time organizing and cataloguing inventory. Since time is a very precious and valuable commodity, it

would be nice to think it was compensated for in some reasonable fashion. However, much of what we do comes under the heading of "a labor of love." This is certainly true when there is a large quantity of heavy boxes to sort through.

Supplies are a necessary expense. Everything, including heavy cardboard boxes, bubble-wrap, packing peanuts, tape in various forms and plastic bags are needed. Items such as invoices, labels, file cabinets, packing tables, an accurate scale, numerous bookcases and shelving all add up.

Printing is another subject that needs comment. If you check most mail bid sales or fixed price lists, you will notice there are relatively few that contain pictures of the material offered. You may ask, "Why is this?" Anyone who has contacted a printing company about four color separation on glossy paper for a minimum run of 1000 copies will gladly tell you its quite expensive. Thankfully, the market has not been promoted to the point where we as dealers have to glamorize the offerings like coin dealers and auction houses do. Instead, we rely on the intelligence of our customers to understand the accurate written descriptions.

Another item to be taken care of is advertising. The margins in this business are nowhere near the hyper-inflated coin prices and the cost of full-page ads in the trade papers is simply prohibitive under present market conditions. It seems that no one

reads or gives any credibility to something smaller; however, most of the dealers can be contacted by checking the publications section (181) in the *Coin World* classifieds.

One annoying element that affects everyone is the shipping expenses associated with literature. The costs of using the postal service, or private shipping like UPS or Fed Ex, are like having taxes taken out of your paycheck.

It's disheartening to send packages overseas. Every ounce counts and its not really fair. For example, a priority flat rate can go from Boston to Honolulu for \$3.20, or nearly 5,500 miles. The cost increases over three-fold to go from Boston to Europe, a distance of 3,500 miles. If you take the very same package from Sault St. Marie, Michigan to Sault St. Marie, Ontario, a distance of less than two miles, it costs more than \$3.20 as it's international mail and cannot even be put into a U.S. priority flat rate envelope. This brings to mind the U.S. postal service priority mail - they cheerfully take a lot of your money, but don't guarantee any delivery time. You figure it out.

The packing and handling charges added to an invoice don't even begin to pay for the time it takes to get the item(s) ready for shipment. this was a real sore spot with the individual who bought books off the internet. Regrettably, books and catalogues don't just jump into the boxes by themselves; and they are not that well trained in

wrapping and protecting themselves either.

What must be remembered is that people who are not dealers are selling their extra items on the internet as well. This is perfectly acceptable and actually helps the market by generating and maintaining interest. These people also understand the costs of shipping materials and time needed to send things out.

Here are a few things to consider. The United States Mint has a mailing list of over two million people. Coin World, the largest subscription publication, has just under 100,000 subscribers. The ANA has approximately 30,000 members. The Coin Dealer Newsletter, a.k.a. the "Graysheet," has under 8,000. George Kolbe, the leading numismatic literature dealer, has a mailing list of about 1,000 people, while my active mailing list has a little under half that amount. This shows that there are a lot of poorly informed people out there buying coins. Many of these individuals never get past the "date, grade and price" syndrome. It's a shame they never learn about the history surrounding their particular field of interest.

Knowledge is perhaps the most important consideration; all numismatic knowledge is acquired. You must read to learn and understand. Being able to sift through the hype associated with the commercial aspect of coin collecting is one of the true joys of having a reference library. Today, all of the major cataloguers have large reference

libraries. They get much of this material from the literature dealers.

Literature dealers are well versed in the various idiosyncrasies of numismatic literature, and there are many. You can pick our brains on sale dates, plates, consignors, market availability, deluxe editions, pricing, number extent, – the list is endless. We even supply accurate information on many misconstrued or hidden background details.

It is up to each individual to learn about the needed references used in numismatic literature. A partial list of these would include Attinelli, Gengerke, Adams 1 and 2 and Davis. With these important guides it is easy to figure out what you have and what you need. Coin collectors have the "Red book" as a general guide, and the "Graysheet" for pricing. However, while you may not believe it, collecting numismatic literature is much more involved than collecting coins. For example, there have been over 15,000 different coin auction catalogues printed in the United States, that's a greater number of individual items than is found in a complete set of United States coinage by die varieties. If you add foreign numismatic literature to your list...well, you better have a big storage space available.

Get to know your friendly numismatic literature dealer. They are well read and versed. Amazingly, we as a group are one of the most overlooked resources in numismatics.

A Research Query: Guttag Publications

by Mike Paradis

The purpose of this note is to share the information I have obtained on Guttag's *Coin Bulletins* and hopefully get some feedback to build a complete list of this publication and any other publications issued by them. I recently purchased some fixed price lists that were issued by the Guttag Brothers, all with dates between October 10, 1925 and February 17, 1928. They are all 8 1/2 by 14 inches, three holes punched and in a three ring binder that has the Guttag seal. Most issues have four sheets with printing on the front and back. The heading on the first page of all the issues appears as follows: "COIN BULLETIN, Reg. U.S. Pat. Off., Published by GUTTAG BROS., 16-18 Exchange Place At Beaver and Hanover STS. NEW YORK"

The Guttag red seal is at the left of the heading. They are all identified by a series followed by a number, i.e. Series III No.1 have listed the series and numbers which I have or know of in the table below. As stated previously, the last date which I have is February 17, 1928. A recent Charles Davis Auction, March 4, 2000, listed a consignment as follows: Guttag's *Coin Bulletin*, 1928-1929, Volumes 6-7, complete in 14 issues, 160, 140 pages, octavo, self covered. A look at the photo provided on

Davis' web site showed a March 1928 issue. A Guttag advertisement in the May 1928 issue of the *Numismatist* states: "Have you seen our new modern up-to date Coin Bulletin? It is printed in Magazine form so that it can be bound." Therefore, it appears the last issue of the 8 1/2 x 14 format was the February 17th, 1928 issue and that the new format started in March of that same year.

Along with the *Coin Bulletins* are five other sheets. Four appear to be additional price lists. They are numbered 20, 22 and two copies of 24. These appear to have been included with issues of the *Coin Bulletin*. The Davis Auction mentioned above also contained a single sheet in the 8 1/2 x 14 format dated March 1929. Again looking at the internet picture provided by Davis, this single sheet does not appear to have the series and number on it. This suggests that it was intended to be an added price list like the four listed about.

The fifth single sheet has a January 12, 1926 date which also coincides with an issue of the *Coin Bulletin*. It states: "Our mailing list now consists of \$100 Bonds, Foreign Bonds, *Coin Bulletins*, Foreign Money Rates, Joint Stock Land Bank Stocks. You will notice we have added several departments to our ever

increasing organization. While we realize some will have use for all our publications we can send the Foreign Money Rate Sheet only to dealers." I have not seen any of the other mentioned Gutttag publications.

If you have any information

on any of the Gutttag's publications or their business or writings which you would like to share please either email me at mmjrsbell@worldnet.att.com or write to me at P.O. Box 275, Verbank, NY 12585.

Gutttag Coin Bulletin

| <i>Issue</i> | <i>Date</i> | <i>Sheets</i> |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Series III No.6 | October 10, 1925 | 4 |
| Series III No.7 | December 18, 1925 | 4 |
| Series III No.8 | January 12, 1926 | 3 |
| Series III No.9 | February 10, 1926 | 3 |
| Series IV No.1 | May 5, 1926 | 4 |
| Series IV No.2 | June 21, 1926 | 4 |
| Series IV No.3 | July 2, 1926 | 4 |
| Series IV No.4 | September 17, 1926 | 4 |
| Series IV No.5 | November 15, 1926 | 4 |
| Series IV No.6 | January 24, 1927 | 4 |
| Series IV No.7 | March 5, 1927 | 4 |
| Series IV No.8 | March 30, 1927 | 4 |
| Series V No.1 | April 25, 1927 | 4 |
| Series V No.2 | May 14, 1927 | 4 |
| Series V No.3 | May 31, 1927 | 3 |
| Series V No.4 | July 1, 1927 | 5 |
| Series V No.5 | October 28, 1927 | 4 |
| Series V No.6 | December 2, 1927 | 4 |
| Series V No.7 | December 28, 1927 | 4 |
| Series V No.8 | January 23, 1928 | 4 |
| Series V No.9 | February 17, 1928 | 4 |
| Vol.6 No.1* | March 1928 | |
| Vol.6 No.2* | April 1928** | |
| Vol.6 No.3* | | |
| Vol.6 No.4* | June 1928** | |
| Vol.6 No.5* | July 1928** | |
| Vol.6 No.6* | August 1928** | |
| Vol.6 No.7/8* | | |
| Vol.6 No.9* | November 1928** | |
| Vol.6 No.10* | December 1928** | |
| Vol.7 No.1/2* | | |
| Vol.7 No.3/4* | | |
| Vol.7 No.5/6* | | |
| Vol.7 No.7/8* | | |
| Vol.7 No.9 | December 1929** | |

* Listed Charles Davis Auction, March 4, 2000, lot.422

** Listed Remy Bourne Auction, April 7-8, 2000, lot.342.

The Printer's Devil Missing Masterpieces: The Twilight Zone of American Numismatic Literature

by Joel J. Orosz

Somewhere in the Twilight Zone they abide — publications that once existed and may still, but where we do not know — the missing masterpieces of American numismatic literature. They are publications that do not appear in Charles Davis' *American Numismatic Literature*, as having been sold from 1980 to 1991, prizes that were not in the Champa collection, nor in the Bass collection. Some appear humble, and some appear grand, but all are as elusive as Nessie herself. There are five missing masterpieces: The large paper edition of *Numisgraphics*; the Watkins broadsides, both original and lithographic copies; Woodward's "several" pre-Watkins sales; the Winslow Howard sale of 1856; and the missing journal volumes of Joseph J. Mickley.

The Large Paper Attinelli

It is fitting that we should begin our voyage into the Twilight Zone of American numismatic literature with Emmanuel Joseph Attinelli's *Numisgraphics, or A List of Catalogues, In Which Occur Coins or Medals, Which Have Been Sold by Auction in the United States,*

Also a List of Catalogues or Price Lists of Coins, Issued by Dealers, Also, a List of Various Publications of More or Less Interest to Numismatologists, Which Have Been Published in the United States. Appearing in the national centennial year of 1876. This work is a remarkable bibliography of just about every United States imprint having anything whatever to do with numismatics in America from Colonial times through 1875. Attinelli's scholarship was wide-ranging and thorough-going; he meticulously preserved facts that would otherwise have been lost forever. *Numisgraphics* remains, a century and a quarter after its initial publication, truly the bible of bibliophiles of a numismatic bent.

If Attinelli was a sort of prophet, however, he truly was one without honor in his own country. Then, as now, only a fraction of numismatists cared about the literature of their hobby. Attinelli, who self-published, decided upon a modest press run. The exact size is unknown, but Davis notes in *American Numismatic Literature* that a good estimate is fifty printed, with approximately half

that number surviving today. This gibes with more contemporary judgements, for in his sale number 35 (held in 1881), W. Elliot Woodward reckoned that not more than twenty-five copies were in collectors' hands.

And these great rarities, mind you, constitute the regular edition. On the bottom of the Preface page, Attinelli noted "Ten copies printed on large tinted paper." None of these ten has been sold in living memory; indeed, most collectors question whether the large paper copies were ever produced at all. The theory goes that Attinelli was so discouraged by the slow sale of the regular edition, he never actually followed through on his intention to print a large paper version.

The biggest reason for the indifference of numismatists was probably the resounding silence on the part of the numismatic press. The august *American Journal of Numismatics* did not review *Numisgraphics*, and mentioned it in its April 1877 issue only because Attinelli had donated a copy to the New York Numismatic and Archaeological Society. *The Coin Collector's Journal* expended not a drop of ink in mentioning it. Only Ed. Frossard in his house organ *Numisma*, printed a review of sorts, mainly because he was offering copies for sale at the going rate of two dollars. This "review" consisted of a single sentence: "The last [sic] contribution to American Numismatology is a work which in a somewhat condensed space

gives us considerable information concerning the history of celebrated American numismatists, and the public sales of coins which have up to this time taken place in the United States."

John W. Adams, who wrote the foreword to the 1976 Quarterman Publication's reprint of *Numisgraphics*, noted that "it is a travesty of merit" that the book was so little noticed, and so little purchased. However light the initial interest, it didn't take long for demand to outrun the miniscule supply. Adams observed that *Numisgraphics* began appearing on want lists as early as 1879. Today, any sale of an original copy is a noteworthy event; even the 1976 reprint is out of print and commands prices of about \$100 when it comes up for sale at auction. The discovery of one of the ten large paper editions would be a major numismatic event: but apparently they were never issued, correct?

Wrong. In January of 1878, the C.W. Idell collection was sold at Bangs & Co. This rather undistinguished cabinet had one important distinction: it was the only coin collection ever catalogued by Emmanuel Joseph Attinelli. And in his description for lot 926, Attinelli revealed that the large paper copies had indeed been printed: "*Numisgraphics*. E.J. Attinelli. Royal 8vo. 123 pp. A list of U.S. Coin Sale Catalogues, Books and other publications referring to Coins Dealers price lists, etc. Ten copies of the above were printed

(at \$10.00 per copy) on fine large paper. Either [sic] of the 4 copies remaining unsold can be had by addressing the author."

Even if none of the four remaining copies were sold and were ultimately destroyed, there were six copies that had made their way into collectors' hands. It is odd, indeed, that such special editions, which were obviously meant to be saved, all seem to have been lost over the years. And yet every one seems to have vanished as mysteriously as Jimmy Hoffa. The closest we have come to seeing one was in Charles Davis' sale of March 22, 1997, in which lot 190 was an untrimmed copy 1.5 centimeters taller than Armand Champa's copy. Davis notes that Isaac Wood, one of the previous owners of the volume, wished to dispel any notion that this might be a large paper copy, when he wrote on the verso of the freely: "Ten copies on large paper/500 copies on small paper (like this)." One can only wish that this were not so. It is intriguing, however, to think that a place in numismatic bibliomania history awaits the first person who brings to light one of these ten (or six) elusive large paper Attinellis.

The Watkins Broadside(s)

When Attinelli wrote *Numisgraphics*, he was able to trace American imprints mentioning coins (such as catalogues of institutional collections) back to Colonial times. The earliest auction catalogue he could find, however, was a broadside offering the collection of one

Benjamin Watkins, deceased, formerly of Salem, Mass., on June 12-13, 1828.

Broadsides—in today's vernacular, "posters" would be more familiar—were a common means of transmitting information when towns were small and paper was pricey, a combination of factors which obtained throughout much of America's history, from early provincial times well into the days of the independent republic. Typically, only a handful of broadsides were produced to serve in the place of a catalog for an auction, and once the auction was over, they were discarded.

Numismatic broadsides are rare by definition: the most "common" of them probably exist in fewer than ten copies. These "common" copies date from the 1860s and 1870s, when they were purposely saved by numismatic bibliophiles; those from the 1850s and earlier, before the American coin hobby reached its take-off point, exist (if they exist at all) only as a matter of chance.

The Watkins broadside, happily, is one of those that somehow survived. Although long since dethroned as the earliest coin auction in American history (the current title-holder is the broadside of the Pierre Eugène Du Simitière collection, March 1785, in the collection of the Library Company of Philadelphia), the Watkins broadside is still a rare prize from the cradle age of American Numismatics, one that would adorn the holdings of even the

most advanced collector of numismatic literature.

That is, if one can be found. It is said that an original is in the collection of the Essex Institute (formerly the Salem East India Marine Society). An original was in the Jeremiah Colburn collection, and sold in W. Elliot Woodward's sixth sale, October 20-24, 1863. On page five of *Numisgraphics*, Attinelli acknowledges borrowing an original from a New York collector; since this was more than a decade after Colburn's copy was sold, it may have been the same one.

It is not surprising that only one copy of the Watkins original seems to have survived, but it is a surprise that something that should be far more common seems not to have survived at all. On page five of *Numisgraphics*, Attinelli notes that, after having borrowed the original belonging to the anonymous New York collector, he was "enabled by the recently invented process of Photo-Litography [sic] to present as a frontispiece, a facsimile of the catalog in a reduced scale. A very few copies have also been made of the same size as the original, which is eighteen inches in height."

Once more, the C.W. Idell catalog provides us with valuable information. Introducing lot 921, Attinelli notes "the following five lots of catalogues and addendas [sic] were privately printed [by Attinelli] and have but once before been offered at auction." Just when that auction occurred, your columnist does

not know. Lot 921, however, pinpoints the number of copies made: "1828 Watkins Coll. A photolithograph, same size as the original. Thirty copies printed. Of the original there are but two copies known, one of these being imperfect."

Just as it seems odd that the special large paper editions of *Numisgraphics* should have a survival rate of zero, so it seems peculiar that thirty specially made lithographs should all disappear without a trace. Clearly, each one that was sold was purchased by someone who appreciated what it represented, and yet none seem to have endured. Here then is a mystery worthy of further investigation: What has become of both the originals and the photolithographs of the Watkins broadside?

Woodward's Pre-Watkins Sales

Today's numismatic bibliophiles would be pondering many more tales of vanished volumes were it not for W. Elliot Woodward, the legendary Roxbury apothecary, land speculator, and numismatist. Woodward, along with fellow hoarders John W. Kline and Henry Chapman, is responsible for saving a clear majority of all of the 19th century American numismatic catalogues still in existence. Kline's collection went to Chapman, and ultimately became the "Adirondack Find" mentioned by John W. Adams in *United States Numismatic Literature*, Volume 1 (see your columnist's *Curious*

Case of the Coin Collectors Kline in Bowers & Merena's series *Little Editions*). Woodward's stock eventually passed into the hands of Alexander Parker Wylie of Illinois (see this column for summer of 1999, and first-hand accounts by Frank Katen in the winter 1989 number, and John W. Adams in the winter 1993 issue).

Some insights on how Woodward formed this hoard are shared in his aforementioned Catalog 35, emitted in 1881:

An interest is felt by many persons in collecting the Catalogues of American Coin Sales, second only to their interest in the coins themselves. Many years ago I purchased the stocks and remainders in the hands of the principal dealers, and have recently bought a great number, including some of the early and rare issues, together with illustrated and extra paper copies, so that I am now able to furnish to order, priced or plain, the Catalog of almost any Coin Sale that has taken place in the United States within the last twenty-five years. My collection comprises some not mentioned by Attinelli, and several prior to the Watkins Sale, which he supposed was the first made here.

What catches the eye immediately, of course, is Woodward's claim to have "several prior to the Watkins Sale." By this, he probably meant broadsides, for relatively few American auctions of any sort before 1828 merited a separate printed catalogue. But

what became of these broadsides? By the time that Frank Katen auctioned off the Wylie Hoard in a series of three sales in 1977, not a single pre-Watkins piece remained. One assumes that Woodward probably sold them to other collectors before his death in 1892. Today, the surfacing of even one of these pieces would cause a bibliophilic sensation. Where are they? And whose collections might they have been?

The Winslow Howard Sale of 1856

Just as any book published during the cradle age of printing (prior to 1501) is known as an incunable, so any auction catalogue emitted during the cradle age of American numismatics (prior to 1861) is a numismatic incunable. A mere dozen or so copies exist of the 1851 Dr. Lewis Roper sale (see P. Scott Rubin, "Variants of the 1851 Roper Auction Sale Catalog" in *The Asylum*, fall 1998), which is the earliest American sale that a collector can reasonably aspire to own. Perhaps two to three times as many copies of the 1855 A.C. (John W.) Kline catalogue are in existence, and at least fifty or so copies of Augustus B. Sage's Henry Bogert collection (1859) are still with us.

Whenever an example of such a catalogue, all of which are listed in Attinelli, appears for sale, there is eager bidding among those wishing to own a piece of history. Imagine how great the excitement would be, therefore,

if there came available a substantial 1850s coin auction sale catalog not mentioned in *Numisgraphics*. Such a creature, according to renowned early numismatist Charles Ira Bushnell, was the collection of Winslow J. Howard, sold at auction in New York City in 1856. Writing in his slim volume, *An Historical Account of the First Three Business Tokens Issued in the City of New York*, Bushnell notes, on page 17, that a Mott Jeweler's Token was sold at the public auction of the Winslow J. Howard collection in 1856, going to "Wilson" (probably either David S. Wilson, or Rathmell Wilson).

Bushnell, whose imposing scholarly skills could be matched only by his formidable temper, was not a man to be contradicted. Moreover, he had contact at some level with Mr. Howard, for in 1857 Howard had joined with Bushnell (writing under the pseudonym of "Numismatist"), in correcting errors made by Augustus B. Sage (writing under the pseudonym of "Gus"), in the "Gleanings of Coins" series of articles for the New-York Dispatch (see Q. David Bowers, *American Numismatics Before the Civil War*, p. 102). Winslow Howard's collection seems to have been strong in Colonials and Large Cents. In 1858, two of his coins, the so-called Washington Half Dollar and the enigmatic Non Dependens Status token dated 1878, were featured in Norton's Literary Letter, number 2.

If there was indeed a Winslow

Howard auction sale in 1856, it was probably a noteworthy one, but so far, Bushnell's brief mention is the only record we have of it. Perhaps a copy or two still exist, nestled among more common catalogues of its time period. Finding it would not only be a coup for a bibliophile; it would also elevate Winslow Howard's status as one of the notable early American numismatists.

Mickley's Missing Journals

Great collectors of the past, like Winslow Howard, occupy a world that is largely lost to us today. Even the commonplace knowledge of their times (such as the names of their contemporaries and the sources of their collections), would be of intense interest to us today. Would that they had all written diaries! We know of at least one of these pioneering collectors who did, and it happened to be one of the greatest of them all: Joseph J. Mickley. A collector since at least the late 1820s, Mickley gathered one of America's encyclopedic collections, and was at the center of a small but enthusiastic colony of fellow aficionados. His journals could potentially hold the answers to any number of numismatic riddles and enigmas.

Two stubborn facts, however, conspire against this happy thought. The first is that the one volume of his journal that is known to exist reveals that while Mickley was a crack meteorologist, faithfully recording temperatures and other weather conditions in his journal, he was

but a sporadic chronicler of things numismatic. One walks away from a session with Mickley's journal with a far better feel for diurnal variations of mercury than for die variations of cents. Still, there are a few nuggets in the journal, and if only all of its volumes were accessible (particularly those of the pre-1850s years), how much richer our knowledge of the hobby would be simply from the occasional recorded fact or incident.

The only volume of Mickley's journal which survives covers the period from August 1866 to June 1869. Mickley writes within it with such polish and ease that it is clearly not the work of a newcomer to the craft of journaling. But the volumes both before and after this one, like the coins taken from Mickley in 1867, are simply nowhere to be found. Ah, but what information might reside within if any of the volumes ever are discovered! The inside workings of the antebellum mint? Provenances for great rarities? Biographical details on early numismatists? Secrets revealed by Mickley's friend, Adam Eckfeldt, the venerable Chief Coiner? Sadly, however, each of these volumes has entered the Twilight Zone.

Of these fabulous five, it is entirely possible that one or more exist in an institution, or reposes upon the shelves of an unknowing collector. More intriguing, and perhaps more likely, is the thought that one may lie quietly in a basement or attic, "unhonored and unsung,"

awaiting discovery. Would that all of us—or even one of us—be so lucky as to be the bibliophile to flush prizes of such magnitude from hiding. Finds such as these would well justify a trip into the Twilight Zone of American numismatic literature.

A note to readers: Ten years ago, your columnist launched a numismatic version of *Esquire* magazine's "Dubious Achievement Awards". Dubbed "The Shammies", these awards celebrated the employment of hyperbole in the service of shilling coins. Ten of these compendiums of linguistic lunacy and verbal balderdash have been published in these pages over the past decade, but your columnist has decided that the series will end there.

The reason is quite simple: the task of reading through hundreds of advertisements in search of the most tremendous tripe is time-consuming, not to say often mind-numbing. Hence, it is time to move on to other things. Should any other NBS member wish to take up the task of researching and writing The Shammies, your columnist will be happy to bestow all rights and privileges thereunto appertaining upon him or her.

Finally, a special thanks so much to all of the NBS members who have called or written to say how much they have enjoyed "The Shammies" over the years, and a special debt of gratitude is owed to all those who have shared items for inclusion.

The Ken Lowe Library Sale

by John and Nancy Wilson

The 44th Anniversary of the Michigan State Numismatic Society not only featured the very popular Craig A. Whitford Numismatic Auction, but also a literature sale by the Money Tree. Both sales were held at the Hyatt Regency, in Dearborn, Michigan, Fairlane Town Center, during the Thanksgiving weekend. It is amazing that year after year this Thanksgiving weekend coin convention always sells out its bourse and attracts thousands of collectors, dealers and visitors. The majority of the dealers setup on Thursday night. With free parking and a decent hotel rate, it is a great venue for a coin convention and auction.

We received the catalogue of "The Kenneth Lowe Library" several weeks before the sale. We were told months ago that the sale would have many exciting numismatic references and sale catalogs in it. We were not disappointed with the material between the pages. While going through the catalogue, it appeared page after page was filled with special hardbound and or leather or even marbled deluxe editions. Many of these had a greeting to Ken from the author or auction house. We have only a handful of these in our library and treasure them very highly. Ken was thought of very highly by the majority of authors and auction houses in our numismatic hobby.

The floor/mail bid section which was held on Saturday, November 27th contained 300 lots. A mail bid section contained another 441 lots, and that closed on December 4th. Both sections were in one catalogue, but when we arrived for the auction lot viewing on Friday, we discovered that they had prepared a spiral bound catalogue, just for the floor sale. This was the Money Tree's 32nd numismatic literature sale and first ever floor (and mail bid) sale. It couldn't have been held in conjunction with a better convention. We were very pleased to see the owners of "The Money Tree," Myron and Daryl Xenos along with David and Sherry Sklow. After saying our hellos, we looked through some catalogues and other things they brought to sell and the lots we were interested in. From time to time up to the actual sale, we constantly saw interested collectors and dealers going through the auction lots.

We arrived at the sale at about 1:20 P.M. on Saturday. The sale room was in the Bugatti Royale located on the mezzanine level of the Hyatt. Several numismatic luminaries were in attendance at the sale, with some holding several bidder paddles. Two phones were set for action in the sale. Myron greeted everyone to the sale and the auction started at about 1:40 p.m.

Everyone was anxious for the sale to start. David Sklow handled the book and called out the opening bids. Sherry and Darryl kept track of what the material sold for. The room was well lit and carpeted. After a lot opened, Myron made sure that everyone had a chance to bid on a lot. He constantly looked left, right and straight ahead looking for bidders. This gave everyone a chance to think, and rethink any lot.

With limited space, we will cover some of the highlights. Lot 11 contained the Alan Kessler 1976 red cloth, gilt, *The Fugio Cents* book in new condition. Estimated at \$100, it opened at \$115, and sold to a phone bidder for \$235. Lot 24 contained a fine condition 1915 reference on, *Large U.S. Cents. A Monograph on the Big Copper Pennies*, by Theodore Venn. Estimated at \$150, it opened at \$125, and sold to literature specialist and dealer John Bergman for \$250. Bradley Karoleff's 1996 deluxe edition of *Bust Half Dollar Bibliomania*, in new condition was estimated at \$100. Opening at \$110, it sold to literature specialist John Burns for \$180. The book was the underbidder. Lot 37 contained a 1883, 1st edition, 1st issue, cloth covered and plated reference on, *A Classification of the Early Half-Dimes of the U. S. With a few Remarks on Their Types, Varieties, Rarity, Etc.* With only 100 copies produced and only 40 issued with plates, this plated copy was estimated at \$750. Opening at estimate, this

rare item sold to a phone bidder for \$960.

Lot 51, the Agnes Baldwin, American Numismatic Society, catalogue of the *International Exhibition of Contemporary Medals*, The ANS, March, 1910 New and Revised, 1911, in fine condition. Estimated at \$100, it opened and sold to the book for \$275. Literature specialist Michael Sullivan was the successful bidder on Lot 70 which contained the Melville A. Jamieson, *Medals Awarded to North American Indian Chiefs 1714-1922*, dated 1936 in fine condition. Estimated at \$100, it opened at \$110 and sold for \$150. Lot 98 contained a fine condition, presentation copy of Wayte Raymond's, *Standard Catalogue of U. S. Coins & Currency*, 1934 (Ex Champa & B & M Sale Four, Lot 3873). Estimated at \$950, it opened at \$900 and sold to a phone bidder for \$1,160.

Lot 102 was a new, 47th Edition 1994 "Red Book," *A Guidebook of U. S. Coins* by Richard S. Yeoman. Ken Lowe personally took this book around the Detroit, 103rd ANA convention and had 75 luminaries sign it. It was also canceled at the show. Estimated at \$100, it amazingly opened at \$175 and after furious competition from Craig Whitford (who was General Chairman for that convention), it sold to John Bergman for \$450. We thought that Myron was going to get whip lash, as his head was moving up and down so quickly, tak-

ing bids between the two. Craig left shaking his head in despair, possibly thinking he maybe should have went just a little higher. Just a hint to collectors / dealers going to the Philly ANA 2000 convention. Buy the hard bound year 2000 "Red Book," cancel it on the first day of the show, and then get as many luminaries to sign it as you can. Just think of the potential for such a book down the road.

Lot 119, U. S. Government: Department of State, *The History of the Seal of the U. S.*, 1909 in VF and scarce. Estimated at \$200, it opened at \$110 and sold to literature specialist Wayne Homren for \$235. Still in demand is John Adams, U.S. *Numismatic Literature* Vol. 1, 1982 book (this being copy 380 of 500) that was in lot 123. Estimated at \$100, it opened at \$110 and sold to a phone bidder for \$145. Lot 143 contained the out-dated *Numismatic Bibliography*, 1951 reference in VF. It opened and sold to the book for \$15. This was the lowest priced book sold in the auction. We were the proud buyers of Lot 146. This 1983 reprint of Ed Frossard's *Numisma* (produced by RAMM) complete in 10 volumes was estimated and opened at \$150 and sold for \$190. A nice addition to our library. Lot 151 was Pete Smith's (Deluxe copy no.8 of 10), *American Numismatic Biographies*, 1992, 1st edition. Estimated at \$100, it sold to the book for \$165. Lot 154 contained the Edgar Souders 1995, *Bust Half Fever 1807-1836*, Money Tree Press, 1st edition

presentation copy nos. 4 of 5, in new condition. Opening \$100 lower then the \$225 estimate, it sold for \$385 to a floor bidder who was sitting directly in front of the author. Lot 168 contained the deluxe limited presentation editions of *The Eliasberg and Brand Collections, 1982-1984*, by Bowers and Merena. This was copy no. 7 of 15 that were printed. Estimated at \$250, it opened at \$176, and sold to Michael Sullivan for \$455.

Lot 169 contained one of the highlights of the sale. The S. H. Chapman, June 9, 1924, *The Collection of U. S. Cents and Half Cents of Mr. F. G. Simpson*, (ex Champa and Bowers and Merena sale Lot 158). The estimate was \$1,250. Opening at \$950, it sold to a phone bidder for \$1,950. Back and forth and back and forth Myron's arms were swinging from one phone bidder to the other phone bidder. He appeared to be conducting an orchestra. Lot 170 was a Thomas Elder, June 15-16, 1908 *The Gschwend Collection of Coins*, in fine condition This was the special illustrated hardbound edition. Rated by Adams as A+, it was estimated at \$500. Opening at \$700, we had another phone to phone contest and it eventually sold for \$1,840. The book had a top bid of \$940. It seemed like an eternity while Myron waited for the parties on the other side of the phones to make up their minds, whether they wanted to bid or not. John Burns said after it closed, that this was a new world record for the catalogue. Lot 44, *The*

Asylum Vol. 1 no.1 through Volume 15 no.2 (1980-1997), in VF condition. This was Ken Lowe's personal set. Estimated at \$250, it opened at \$225 and sold to the book for \$275.

Lot 246 contained a Ramm Communications (Remy Bourne) *Fixed Price Lists & Premium Paid for List of the U. S. Coin Dealers, 1822-1900* Vol. 1, 1988. Limited to 32 numbered copies, this was copy no.5. It was inscribed to the Katens. Estimated at \$100, it sold to the book for \$250. David Sklow mentioned that \$300 wouldn't have been successful for the lot. Lot 255 contained a complete set of the Stack's *Numismatic Review*, Vols. 1 to 4, complete in 14 issues (1943-1947). Estimated at \$150, this popular periodical digest on numismatic subjects opened at \$80 and sold to a phone bidder for \$140. Lot 287, Spink Coin Auctions, *The Norweb Collection of English Coins" Parts 1-4, 1985-1987* (special library edition - 80 produced), in fine condition (ex. Davis sale no.27 lot 587). Estimated at \$200, it sold to the floor for \$326, after opening at \$230.

The sale took about three hours and there were two breaks. Everyone appeared to at least get something from the sale. The phone bidders were online for much of the sale. They had strong bids. David Sklow told me that they had 150 total bidders registered, with 50 of them at the sale. Of course,

this number would grow for the mail bid sale which closed the following week. All the prices listed in this story don't include the 10% buyers fee. With a strong book, along with floor and phone bidders, the sale was very successful. Everything sold and we are sure most people in attendance were able to add to their libraries. Literature is very strong and many collectors are following the advice "to buy the book before the coin."

We would like to say a few words about our friend Kenneth M. Lowe. He was a good friend of almost everyone that is known in our numismatic hobby. To sum up Ken's life - he was like Will Rogers who never met a person he didn't like. We never heard Ken say anything bad about anyone, and he always had a smile on his face. He was a great conversationalist. We were receiving Money Tree catalogues almost from the start and enjoyed participating in their sales. Over the years, Ken edited one of the most interesting publications you could ever find, *Out on a Limb*. Every year after the ANA convention, he would take the time to do an article on the convention. It was always interesting and well done. His passing left a great void in our numismatic hobby. This sale of his outstanding library, is a testament to how great a collector Ken was when it came to numismatic books and literature.

News From The Net

by Pete Smith

By July of 2000, the number of subscribers to *The E-Sylum* reached 300. *The E-Sylum* is an electronic newsletter for anyone who is interested in numismatic literature and has an e-mail address. To be included, send your e-mail address to Wayne Homren at whomren@coinlibrary.com. Items mentioned below appeared in the first half of 2000.

Officer Turnover

The resignation of NBS vice president David Sklow was announced on March 19. He also left The Money Tree in Ohio and moved to Florida. In a related item, Myron Xenos announced cessation of the firm's numismatic literature sales. On April 9, the appointment of Tom Sheehan as vice president was announced. Former board member Pete Smith was appointed to fill the vacancy on the board created through Tom's promotion.

Marriage Announcement

NBS Secretary-Treasurer Dave Hirt announced his marriage to Emilia Bartfai on May 27, 2000. They were married in Budapest, Hungary.

Death Announcements

The death of Michael Craven was announced on May 7. Craven produced numismatic videos including "The Granite Lady," ".900 Fine," and "Keys to

the Treasury." He turned an old film on Laura Gardin Fraser into "The Medal Maker."

On April 30, 2000, Craven stopped on a Los Angeles freeway to confront the occupants of a stolen Chevrolet Suburban that had thrown eggs at his car. As he approached the car, they drove over him. He is survived by a son and ex-wife.

Peter Jones, manager of Seaby's book department died on March 3. While at Seaby's, 1959 to 1982, he managed one of the finest numismatic book shops in the world. He rose to Assistant Manager and later Director of B.A. Seaby Ltd. After leaving Seaby's, he dealt in books from home. He and his wife hosted occasional dinner parties remembered by their friends. Ken Bressett wrote, "Peter and Donna Jones were two of the nicest people in all of the numismatic world."

Marcella Sheldon, widow of M. Vernon Sheldon, died in 1999. Her card index for The Numismatist was used in preparation of the published ANA index.

Book Releases

David Cassel announced release of *United States Pattern Postage Currency Coins*. He produced 110 numbered hardbound copies.

Georges Depeyrot announced release of the second volume of

Coin Finds in Armenia by Khatchatur Mousheghian, Anahit Mousheghian and Georges Depeyrot covering finds in Duin, Armenia, and inventories of Sasanian and Byzantine coins in Armenia. Later he announced the release of the third volume.

Glen Shake announced publication of *Coins of the Khazar Empire*. The author can be reached at ipp@ticnet.com.

Court Report

Those who attended the "great debate" between Theodore V. Buttrey and Michael Hodder will recall Buttrey's announcement that he would submit information to the New York Attorney General. A report by Victoria Stone Moledor indicated that attorneys representing John J. Ford, Harvey Stack and the firm of Stack's L.L.C. had filed a suit against Buttrey on April 27.

Hodder Publishes

Michael Hodder's research on American gold bars was published by the American Numismatic Society as "Western American Gold and Unparted Bars: A Review of the Evidence." *American Journal of Numismatics*, 2nd. ser. 11 (1999), pp.85-149.

Research Queries

Q. David Bowers asked for access to the *Boston Evening Transcript* of 1855 to 1860.

Allan Davison asked when the term "Conder Token" was first used to refer to the provincial tokens of Britain. Myron Xenos mentioned that the term was used in the *Coin Collector's*

Journal in the 1930's.

Tom DeLorey referred to an 1863 Bangs Merwin & Co. sale of patterns and asked about the earliest known American sale of patterns. Ken Bressett mentioned an 1860 sale by Leonard & Co. Charlie Horning mentioned a Bangs sale of June 1859.

Asylum editor Fort is gathering information on articles on American numismatics published outside the United States.

George Fuld was looking for a named copy of Chapman's Petry collection of May 10, 1893. He wanted to identify the purchaser of lot 773.

Ed Krivoniak was looking for a copy of the Royal Mint Report for 1945. He is researching 1945 New Zealand darkened pennies.

Lawrence Lee, curator of the Byron Reed collection, asked for help identifying Reed's purchases at public sales.

Alan Luedeking asked for guidance on converting color slides to a digital format. He wanted to use the images in a Powerpoint presentation. Bob Cochran, Mike Metras and Kerry Wetterstrom responded with their experiences.

Tom O'Mara asked for handwriting samples for Ed Frossard. He wanted to compare with notes on an auction catalog.

Larry Mitchell asked about children's money-counting books for an article on the topic.

Sale results

George Kolbe announced the results from sale of the Bass library.

A large paper set of Woodward

"Semi-Annual" catalogs realized \$38,500.

A leather-bound set of *The Numismatist* 1888-1952 realized \$29,700.

Two photographic albums showing Colonel Green's collection of United States Eagles and Half Eagles realized \$25,300.

A.M. Hart's work on American colonial paper money with rare "historical chart" realized \$20,000.

ANS Library Catalog Online

The library catalogue for the American Numismatic Society is now available at www.amnumsoc.org/search. They also have a database of objects available on-line. In the future, they hope to offer pictures of their collection on-line.

NBS Web Site Search

The NBS Website is at www.coinbooks.org. The site recently added a full text search feature.

Electronic Fake

Andy Lustig reported that the Clark Gruber \$20 on the ANA homepage is a fake.

Josh Tatum Discussion

Some numismatic references suggest that the term "Josh" dates back to Josh Tatum, who may have passed gold-plated 5-cent coins of 1883. The Merriam-Webster on-line dictionary dates the term back to 1852.

Carl Honore is working on a book *The Life and Times of the Liberty Nickel*. He mentioned that "Josh" may have referred to

Josh Billings. Bob Van Ryzin included Tatum in his book, *Twisted Tails with Material Provided by Eric van Klinger*. They agree that usage of the term "Josh" predates both Josh Tatum and Josh Billings.

Additional discussion concerned the lack of contemporary documentation that supports the Tatum story.

Important Events

Readers were asked to name what they considered the most important American numismatic events of the century. Brad Karoleff responded with his list:

1. Publication of *The American Numismatist* in 1888.
2. Formation of the American Numismatic Association - 1891.
3. Beginning of commemorative coinage in 1893.
4. Redesign of American coinage influenced by St. Gaudins.
5. Issue of pennyboards.
6. Publication of the "Red book."
7. Removal of silver from coinage in 1964.
8. BU Investment roll craze, 1955 double die cents and 1960 small date cents.
9. Redemption of silver certificates.
10. Release of the ANA grading guide and formation of ANACS.
11. The 1980 gold and silver rush.
12. "Slabbing" by PCGS and NGC.
13. Publication of *Coin World*.
14. Publication of the *Star Rare Coin Encyclopedia* by B. Max Mehl.

15. Publication of *Early American Cents* by William Sheldon.

16. Formation of EAC and publication of *Penny Wise*.

17. Government sale of silver dollars in 1972.

18. The fifty-State Quarter program

John and Nancy Wilson added publication of *Numismatic News* to their list.

Numismatic Index

An index of numismatic periodicals is now available through the Numismatic Indexes Project of the Harry Bass Foundation. In the past this was available through the American Numismatic Society webpage. It is now available at harrybass-foundation.org/search_numlit.asp. These periodicals include more than 75,000 entries:

1. *American Journal of Numismatics*, 1st series, 1866-1924

2. *American Journal of Numismatics*, 2nd series, 1989-Present

3. *American Numismatic Society Proceedings* 1878-1914

4. *Museum Notes* 1945-1988

5. *Coinage of the Americas Conference*, 1984-Present

6. *Numismatic Notes and Monographs* 1921-1968

7. *Numismatic Studies* 1938-1993

8. *The Colonial Newsletter*

9. *The Numismatist* 1988-Present

10. *Numismatic Scrapbook Magazine* 1935-1975

11. *Numismatic Review* 1943-1947

12. *Coin Collector's Journal* 1875-1888

13. *Coin Collector's Journal*, new series, 1934-1954

14. *The Celator* 1987-Present

15. *The Asylum* 1980-1997

Numismatic Literature First?

What may be a first occurred with the Heritage sale for May 2000. The auction catalog was produced on a CD. (A personal note: I passed by the Heritage table after they left the Central States show. I could have picked up several copies of the sale CD. I didn't bother to take even one copy.)

Book Preservation

In response to earlier questions, Mike Jones offered his suggestions on book preservation.

"One: Each book/catalog should be protected by placing it in a clear archival sleeve with sensitive closure ... this would at least eliminate dust and the rubbings from each other especially taking it out and placing back in the bookshelf ... glass-fitted doors are a must for bookcases.

Two: Never, ever pull books from shelves by grabbing the head of the spine ... sooner or later you will have nice books with tender spines.

Three: Never, ever open books flat on a table to read ... either hold in your palms and open at a V angle or place supports at each corner so that they do not open flat.

Four: I just hate it when I see good books displayed slanted on bookshelves ... they're gonna

buckle sooner rather than later.

Five: There have been many talks over the years about maintaining proper temperature and humidity for coins and books ... this is quite unrealistic for most of us ... common sense for each region must be used.

Six: Simple repairs are a must! ... tears must be closed before they get to be ugly ... if plates had tissue guards originally and are not there, it's best to substitute with some imagination, otherwise the plates and the facing text pages will turn on you ... sometimes it is best to lightly trim edges of brittle untrimmed pages so that they don't get

deeper in trouble, though some purists will disagree ... if the original staples holding the booklets together are about to rust or rusted, best take them out and replace them or just lay loose within, as once the rust starts in, nothing can be done to take the spots off.

Seven: best never to buy books with problems to begin with, as they will cost you in a long run ... scotch-taped pages with browning ... more than minor foxing ... rebound using modern covers ... waterstaining ... etc. I am sure each collector has his tolerance level and you know what that is for yourself."

Get on Board with The E-Sylum the weekly e-mail newsletter of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society

Hundreds of bibliophiles around the U.S. and the
world subscribe to this free publication, containing
news and information about NBS
and numismatic literature in general.

To subscribe, write to Wayne Homren at
whomren@coinlibrary.com
For more information, see the NBS web site at
<http://www.coinbooks.org/>

Overprinted Coin Show Red Books and Mr. Yeo

by John and Nancy Wilson

In 1985 we were appointed Co-Assistant General Chairmen for the American Numismatic Association Convention which was held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The coin show was held at the MECCA downtown convention center. Being excited about "the big one" coming back to Milwaukee after 35 years, we wanted the show to be the best it could possibly be. We talked to our local committee and ANA Headquarters about doing an overprinted "Red Book," and they were all excited. We approached Western Publishing Company about doing a "Red Book" for the ANA Saturday Night Banquet. Ed Metzger, who handles the coin products for Western, was very receptive to doing an overprinted 40th edition 1987 "Red Book" for the show. It was decided that the official ANA Medal depicting the three famous Wisconsin numismatists would be overprinted on the "Red Book." The three Wisconsin numismatists were Henry Granberg, Chester Krause and R.S. "Dick" Yeoman. The overprint was the same color as the other information on the cover of the book. About 500 of the overprinted "Red Books" were produced and given out at the banquet. These overprinted

"Red Books" became very popular the next day at the show. Several changed hands for \$75 or more. A lot of collectors and dealers who could have gone to the banquet were disappointed that they had not been there.

The other significant overprinted "Red Book" was done for the ANA Convention held in Chicago, Illinois, in 1991. John Wilson was the General Chairman of the show and we wished to make this convention something special. We brought up the idea of an overprinted "Red Book" with the committee and they approved it. Once again, Ed Metzger and Western Publishing Company came through with another "Red Book." Overprinted on this 45th edition 1992 "Red Book" was the American Numismatic Assoc. Logo that was used to promote the convention, and in particular the 1891-1991 Club. Circular in form, it reads from top to bottom, "American Numismatic Association Celebrating 100 years 1891-1991." Below the logo are the dates of the show, August 13-18, 1991 and the city, Chicago, Illinois.

This "Red Book" proved to be the hardest to get done because the size of the banquet kept growing larger and larger. Originally the banquet was slat-

ed to be for about 250 to 300 persons. Then it grew to 400 and then to over 500 people. Ed Metzger was growing very impatient with us and when the banquet grew to about 550 we agreed with him that 600 would do. Ruthann Brettell, the ANA's convention manager, did not want the banquet to exceed 600.

Ed produced about 650 overprinted "red Books" for the convention banquet which was held at the Rosement Hyatt. Ed kept the additional 50 copies for friends and associates. Needless to say everyone was very excited to get this outstanding gift at the banquet that Saturday night. As a matter of fact, slightly over 600 people attended the banquet and a few of them did not get one of the special "Red Books."

Once again the talk at the show on Sunday was the overprinted "Red Books" that were given out at the banquet. They were trading hands on Sunday for \$75 or more.

One of the famous personalities that attended the 1986 Milwaukee convention was the author of *The Guide Book of United States Coins* (the "Red Book"), Richard S. Yeoman. John had Yeoman autograph the copy that he had received at the banquet. We do not know how many of the "Red Books" with the overprint were autographed by Yeoman, but it is likely that there were not very many.

Richard S. Yeo (he adopted the pen name Yeoman when he became involved with Whitman Coin Products) was born in

Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on August 15, 1904. He passed away in Tucson, Arizona, on November 9, 1998, at the age of 84. Yeoman's involvement in the hobby began in 1932 when he went to work for Whitman. The coin hobby started to take off when J.K. Post of Neenah, Wisconsin, brought his penny board design to Whitman to produce on a contract basis in 1934. This first coin holder became very popular with collectors. About 1936, Whitman purchased the rights to the board and it was up to Yeoman to promote it.

The "Red Book," was delayed in production because of the rationing caused by the Second World War and was not published until 1946, though it bore 1947 on the cover. This work is the most widely distributed coin book in the world and can be found in most book stores across the United States. Yeoman was also the author of other Whitman coin monographs such as *A Catalog of Modern World Coins*, first published in 1957, and *Current Coins of the World*, first published in 1966.

Yeoman served on the ANA board of governors from 1946 to 1951 and was a very positive force in the hobby. He received a number of national awards for his outstanding contributions to numismatics. In 1952 he received the ANA Medal of Merit and in 1957 was awarded the ANA's highest award -- the Ferran Zerbe. In 1964 he was appointed to the U.S. Assay Commission by President

CD Review:

Scottish Currency

by E. Tomlinson Fort

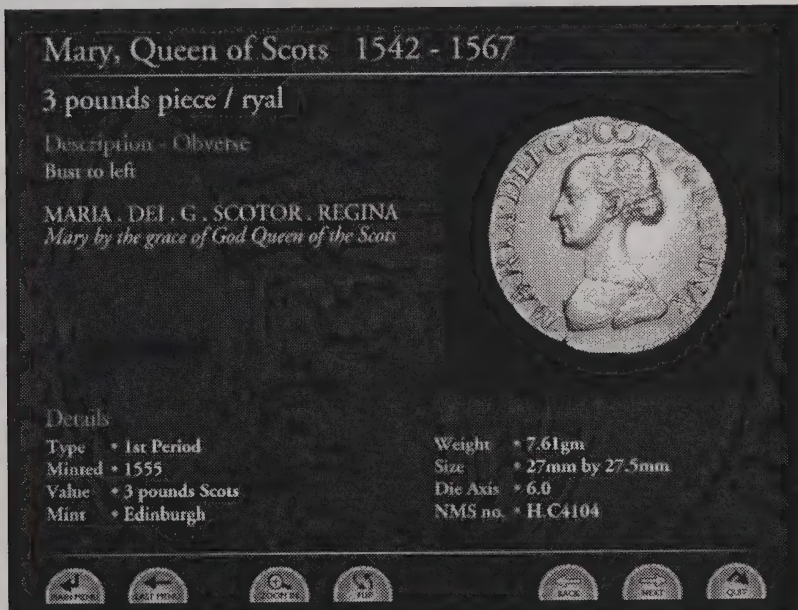
The coinage of Scotland has tended to be overshadowed by that produced by its southern neighbor – England. An obvious example of this is in the *Sylloge of Coins of the British Isles* series. Of the almost 50 volumes published only one has been devoted to the Scottish series. Even Ireland, also on the so-called “celtic fringe,” has had four volumes to its credit.

However, while the Scots were among the last of the peoples of Europe to begin striking coins (in the reign of David I [1124-1153]) they appear to be among

the first to embrace computer technology when it comes to stimulating an interest in their coinage.

This use of new technology can be seen in this new CD produced by National Museums of Scotland. It works very simply on either Macs or PCs. It contains hundreds of wonderful color photos, all of which can be enlarged for more detail. Most importantly, this work is a very good survey to the Scottish series for both the specialist and the newcomer.

Basically, the disc consists of



A wonderful selection of Scottish coinage, tokens and paper money from the 12th to 20th centuries can be found on this new CD from the National Museums of Scotland

four parts. The first is a general overview of Scottish numismatics – coins, tokens and paper money.

The second, and in my opinion the best, portion of the CD is the section on the Scottish coinage. Over 275 coins struck between the reigns of David I and Anne (1702-1714) are illustrated. Before the entry for each reign there are a couple of pages with a brief overview of each series.

While the section on the coinage is comprehensive, and all types and denominations are well illustrated, such coverage is not possible with the token and paper money portions. Due to the massive amount of material, any such coverage would take up several CDs and drive up the cost considerably.

However, while these sections are not as thorough, they do provide well illustrated and fascinating overviews. The Token section contains selections from 14 towns scattered around the country. You can view them either by location of subject.

The paper money section is arranged both by date as well as by the banks which issued the notes. Various notes issued by some 25 Scottish banks are illustrated. Notes printed after the Second World War are not shown, though this is probably due to the British restrictions on illustrating modern currency.

After viewing this CD I have only a couple of minor complaints. The first is the lack of a further reading list. A number of the entries refer to the standard

sources, such as Burns or Stewart, but these are done in abbreviated form and to one who is unfamiliar with these works they mean nothing. Since this CD is designed with beginners in mind, a page with a list of the basic reference works might have been useful.

Another minor problem occurs in the section on the coinage. Here the coinages of Edward I, Edward II and Edward III of England struck at the Berwick mint are omitted. While these coinages do bear the names of English rather than Scottish kings, they were produced at a Scottish mint from locally cut dies. To ignore this important series is somewhat like ignoring the coinage of the Empress Matilda in the England or the Confederate half dollar in the American series simply because they were produced by governments whose legitimacy was questioned.

However, it must be stressed that these are very minor points, and one can hope that they will be rectified in a future edition. Overall, this is a wonderful work and may be used with profit by anyone with an interest in Scottish history and/or numismatics.

The CD costs £29.99 and is available from the National Museums of Scotland, Chambers Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1JF, Scotland. Postage is additional so it is best to inquire first, either by post or email – cara@nms.ac.uk. You can also visit their web site at www.nms.ac.uk.

Complete Your Collection

No numismatic bibliophile's library is complete without an extensive run of *The Asylum*. Below are listed all of the back issues which are currently available. Better hurry, some are in short supply and you'll want to fill those holes in your collection at reasonable prices

| | | | |
|-----------|-----------------|------------|-----------------|
| Vol. II | Nos. 1, 2 | Vol. XI | Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 |
| Vol. III | Nos. 1, 2, 3/4 | Vol. XII | Nos. 2, 3, 4 |
| Vol. IV | Nos. 1, 3, 4 | Vol. XIII | Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 |
| Vol. V | Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 | Vol. XIV | Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 |
| Vol. VI | Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 | Vol. XV | Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 |
| Vol. VII | Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 | Vol. XVI | Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 |
| Vol. VIII | Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 | Vol. XVII | Nos. 2, 3, 4 |
| Vol. IX | Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 | Vol. XVIII | Nos. 1, 2 |
| Vol. X | No. 1 | | |

**All issues are \$5.00 each (including postage).
Photocopies of out of print issues are also available
at the same price.**

*Make all checks or money orders payable to
"Numismatic Bibliomania Society" and send to:*

David Hirt
Secretary-Treasurer
Numismatic Bibliomania Society
5911 Quinn Orchard Road
Frederick, MD 21704

SIX CLASSIC WORKS

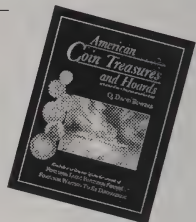
by Q. David Bowers

AMERICAN COIN TREASURES AND HOARDS

Twenty-two chapters are filled with stories of treasures hidden, lost, found, and some waiting to be found. 456 pages, profusely illustrated.

Hardbound. Stock No. BBM-404.

List \$59.95

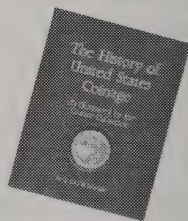


THE HISTORY OF UNITED STATES COINAGE

Covers all American series from colonials to territorial gold, half cents to \$20 gold. Equivalent to a university course in coins. 572 pages, illustrated.

Hardbound. Stock No. BBM-130.

List \$59.95



LOUIS E. ELIASBERG, SR.

KING OF COINS

A wonderful book chronicling the life of this magnificent collector and his fascinating collection which, when sold, realized \$44 million! 176 pages, illustrated. Second printing.

Hardbound. Stock No. BBM-146A.

List \$62.50



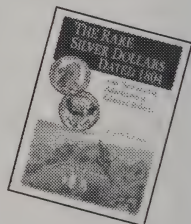
THE RARE SILVER DOLLARS DATED 1804

AND THE EXCITING ADVENTURES OF EDMUND ROBERTS

Take a ride on the *U.S.S. Peacock* as it delivers the "King of Coins" to the Sultan of Muscat. Includes over 100 biographies of numismatists and particulars about each 1804 Silver Dollar.

Hardbound. Stock No. BBM-407.

List \$69.95

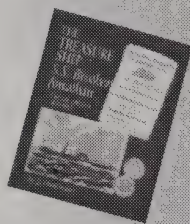


THE TREASURE SHIP S.S. BROTHER JONATHAN

Chronicles of this ill-fated vessel, its loss and recovery, plus stories of the Gold Rush in San Francisco and a history of the San Francisco Mint. 416 pages, illustrated.

Hardbound. Stock No. BBM-406.

List \$69.95



UNITED STATES GOLD COINS: AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY

The definitive work on American gold coins. When Secretary of the Treasury James Baker wanted to know about gold coins, he consulted this book Award winner. 415 pages, illustrated.

Hardbound. Stock No. BBM-135.

List \$57.95



Books are the key to collecting pleasure and success! We offer you dozens of titles to enhance your enjoyment of coins, provide interesting and informative reading, and contribute to your numismatic bottom line. Buying books from Bowers and Merena has the added advantage of being a financially rewarding experience as our discounts are hard to beat. Each and every title is offered at a 10% discount from the list price or, if the list prices of the books in your order total \$100 or more, take a 20% discount!!! Order liberally and with the confidence of knowing each purchase you make comes with a 30-day money-back guarantee of satisfaction! Call Mary in our Publication Department to order these numismatic "must-haves" at 1-800-222-5993!

BOWERS AND MERENA GALLERIES

— A Collectors Universe™ Company —

Box 1224 ♦ Wolfeboro, NH 03894 ♦ 800-222-5993 ♦ In NH: 569-5095 ♦ Fax: (603) 569-5319

www.bowersandmerena.com ♦ e-mail: directsales@bowersandmerena.com



**FINE
NUMISMATIC
BOOKS
ANY LANGUAGE
ANY PERIOD
ALWAYS WANTED**


SPINK
founded 1666

69 SOUTHAMPTON ROW BLOOMSBURY,
LONDON WC1B 4ET. TEL: 020 7563 4000
FAX: 020 7563 4066 <http://www.spink-online.com>



he world of books is the most remarkable creation of man. ✱ Nothing else that he builds ever lasts. ✱✱ Monuments fall; nations perish; civilizations grow old and die out; and after an era of darkness, new races build others. ✱✱ But in the world of books are volumes that have seen this happen again and again, and yet live on, still young, still as fresh as the day they were written, still telling men's hearts of the hearts of men centuries dead.

From The Story of the Yale University Press

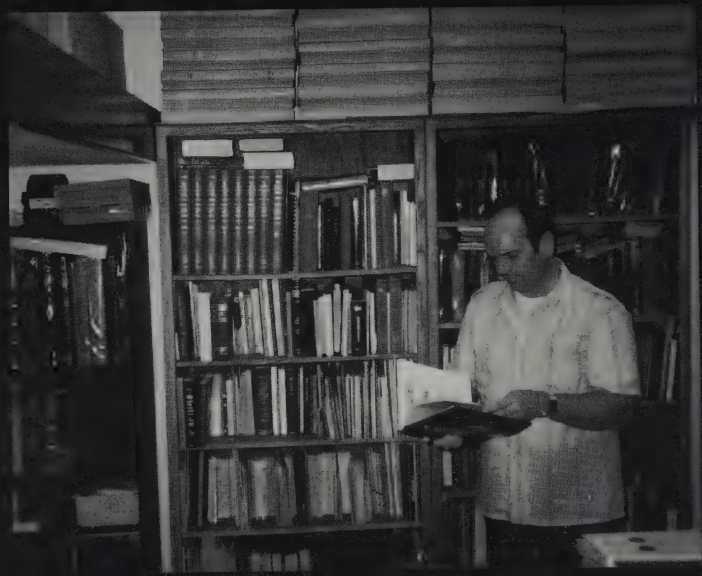


In memory of John, Ken, Armand,
Jack and all the others who made
books an integral part of their lives.

. . . Myron and Daryl Xenos

In Memorium
John F. Bergman

1944-2000



*In all ages the greatest, best, and most love-
able men have been lovers of books*

- Robert M. Williamson

The Officers and Members of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society

THE ASYLUM

The Quarterly Journal of the
Numismatic Bibliomania Society

Volume XVIII, No. 4

Fall 2000

JOHN F. BERGMAN MEMORIAL ISSUE

CONTENTS

- In Memoriam: John F. Bergman (1944-2000) 98
by His Friends and Clients
- Checking into the Hotel California:
A Visit with John Bergman and George Kolbe 104
by Wayne Homren
- John Frederick Bergman.
Numismatic Bookseller – Friend 108
by George Kolbe
- Remembering John Bergman. 110
by Karl Moulton
- How to Pack Books 112
by John F. Bergman
- Ard W. Browning Comes Home 115
by Carl R. Herkowitz
- The Printer's Devil:
William Gowans and the First U.S. Auctions of
Numismatic Literature 123
by Joel J. Orosz

Our plane left Baltimore as the sun rose. Just before leveling-out, we broke through the grayness. The clouds formed an awe-inspiring cottony sea, the puffy tops whitened by the sun, motionless and seemingly stopped in time. It was truly a religious experience that I desperately wanted to share with another soul. I looked about anxiously and was crushed to see the person in the seat next to me asleep and oblivious to this miracle of GOD. I am compelled to write this pitiful description of one glorious event so that I might never forget the fleeting moment in time when all petty human thoughts left me. I thank you LORD.

JOHN FREDERICK BERGMAN

1944-2000

~ WRITTEN IN 1996 ~

NUMISMATIC BIBLIOMANIA SOCIETY OFFICERS

President

Wayne Homren
1810 Antietam St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15206
whomren@coinlibrary.com

Vice-President

Tom Sheehan,
P. O. Box 1477,
Edmonds, WA 98020,
twsheeh@attglobal.net

Secretary-Treasurer

Dave Hirt
5911 Quinn Orchard Rd.
Frederick, MD 21704

Members of the Board

Bob Metzger, P.O. Box 307, Lakeville, MN 55044-0307, ultrabob@gte.net

Larry Mitchell, Box 902317, Palmdale, CA 93590, numislit@yahoo.com

Bill Murray, 7400 Crestway, Apt. 1423, San Antonio, TX 78239, billmur13@aol.com

Joel Orosz, 4300 Old Field Trail, Kalamazoo, MI 49008, jjo@wkkf.org

Scott Rubin, P.O. Box 6885, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648, P.ScottRubin@worldnet.att.net

Pete Smith, 2423 4th Str. NE, Minneapolis, MN 55418 Smith.Pete@dorseylaw.com

The Asylum

Vol. XVIII, No. 4 Consecutive Issue No. 73

FALL 2000

Editor: E. Tomlinson Fort
P.O. Box 5035
Pittsburgh, PA 15206
etfort@aol.com

Editor-in-Chief: Bob Metzger
P.O. Box 307
Lakeville, MN 55044-0307
ultrabob@gte.net

Advertising Rates

| | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Full Page | \$60.00 |
| Inside Front, Inside or Outside Back Cover | 65.00 |
| Half Page | 35.00 |
| Quarter Page | 20.00 |
| Classified | 10¢ per word, minimum \$ 2.50 |

The Asylum is published quarterly. Manuscripts sent to the editor should be accompanied, if possible, by a Macintosh (preferred) or PC (if necessary) compatible disk. For more information please contact the editor.

N.B.S. Membership: \$15.00 annual dues in North America, \$20.00 elsewhere. Members receive all issues of the current volume. Requests for membership should be submitted to the Secretary-Treasurer.

©2000 Numismatic Bibliomania Society

In Memorium: John F. Bergman (1944-2000)

By His Friends and Clients

E. Tomlinson Fort:

I never had the privilege of meeting John Bergman face to face. Over the years we conversed many times by phone or via e-mail. Numerous volumes from his inventory found their way onto my shelves. John was always a gentleman and offered his items at a fair price. When I heard of his sudden death, I was stunned and saddened. The numismatic world has truly lost one of its giants. With news of his death Wayne Homren, through the *E-Sylum*, asked people to send tributes and remembrances of John to me. Within hours of his posting they quickly came. Below you will find all those that I received. The number of people below are a true testament both to the number of friends John had and to the strength of his humanity. He will truly be missed.

Fred Lake:

I have just been informed that John Bergman passed away yesterday after a brief bout with cancer. John was a fine friend, a wonderful bibliophile and a true gentleman. His knowledge of numismatic literature was of the highest degree and he used that knowledge to advance interest in this arena throughout the coin collecting world. His contributions to the Numismatic Bibliomania Society included

duties as an Officer of the Society and as a writer over many years. John's passing is a loss to me, personally, and to the numismatic community as a whole. This is a salute to a true "Bibliomaniac".

Dennis and Desirée Kroh:

We were informed that John Bergman, the very personable, extremely honest and well-liked numismatic literature dealer, passed away. He was (along with long-time friend George Kolbe) one of the driving forces behind collecting of numismatic literature and had accumulated many appreciative customers over the years, including ourselves.

Only a few weeks ago John missed one of the big Long Beach shows (where his presence was often taken for granted) and his fellow dealers were informed he couldn't make it "this time" because he "had the flu". Knowing John, he would not have wanted us to mourn him prematurely. John had just finished setting up online catalogues of his inventory and planned to greatly expand his business after recently retiring from his full-time career in the construction industry.

It is indeed tragic that this will now not come to pass, as he had big aspirations for this venue and the patience to make it succeed. John Bergman was by far

one of the most likable fellows we have ever met. He was always very helpful and generous with his considerable knowledge, and his enthusiasm for the hobby of classical numismatics was almost beyond compare. He was never afraid to ask a question if there was something he was uncertain of, and was always very appreciative for the answers. He dealt with customers with unfailing honesty and never had a bad thing to say about anyone. John also had a personality that lit up every room he ever entered, and was a lot of fun to be around. A very caring and wonderful soul has left us... he will be severely missed by all who knew him, and those that did not have that privilege will never know what might have been...

David Lange:

I was so sorry to learn of John Bergman's passing. His absence at the recent Long Beach show, where he was always a fixture at the back of the hall, was noticed immediately, but I had no idea that his illness was serious. When I first began acquiring out-of-print numismatic literature, around twenty years ago, John was among my first influences and sources of supply. In more recent years, it was always a relief for me while working coin shows to wander over to his expansive display and do some browsing and gossiping. I can't place a value on the quality time that I spent with both John's inventory and the man himself. He was always thoughtful, mild mannered and gracious. In a small fraternity such as ours, the

loss of one such individual is a profound one, indeed.

Q. David Bowers:

I just received a telephone call from Dwight Manley advising me that the highly respected long-time dealer in numismatic literature in California, John F. Bergman, has passed away, after losing a battle with cancer.

His memory will always be cherished.

Curt Metz:

John lived in Lakewood, CA (as do I) and I have spent many a great time visiting his home. He had a very, very, very, understanding wife and loved "the grandkid". I never left his house without a "deal". In my very last visit he spent a lot of time educating me about antique books. I merely asked and he (not trying to sell) showed me every book he had that he thought I might find of interest or learn something from. Most every numismatic book I own is a salute to John Bergman and there is no replacing him. To all assembled *E-sylum* subscribers and NBS members, I publicly salute him and believe that he will receive a full "triumph" upon his arrival at his next destination.

Dave Welsh:

Requiescat in pacem frater noster Iohannes Bergman.

John was one of the all time good guys. He will be greatly missed by his many friends and acquaintances. I am among those whose life was in a measure enriched by knowing John, and I am deeply saddened to

learn of his passing. But he is now in a greater and far better realm, where his sunny personality may find even more scope for giving pleasure to others.

Dick Schaefer:

I was one of his distant customers, so never saw him, but he was awfully nice and easy to deal with. Knowledgeable too, but this is a more easily found trait. Thanks to Fred Lake, Dennis + Desiree Kroh, and others for notifying us. I was just about to call John to ask why he hadn't updated his pricelists since May, but now there is no need. Death again, in the midst of life. May we be as ready as John to have our conduct judged by God.

Cal Wilson:

I was both saddened and shocked to hear the news of John Bergman's passing. As most long-time members of the NBS know, John was one of the early moving forces in the formation of the Society. More than a mere dealer in rare numismatic literature, John possessed a true love for the hobby. I will never forget the many hours passed in his library when I stayed with him and Mary during my frequent trips to Southern California in the early '80s, as we worked to formalize the NBS.

We often met at George Kolbe's bookshop in Mission Viejo, and after our discussions John was like a "kid in a candy store" perusing George's inventory. I don't recall a time when I visited the Bergman's that he didn't "just have to show" me

his latest acquisitions, pointing out the perfection of the various pieces. When we would attend major shows such as the ANA, we sometimes shared hotel rooms, and it became a challenge between us as to which one would find the first "finest known" or "previously unknown" book, catalogue or periodical when the bourse floor first opened. Above all, John was a gentleman, scholar, and a true lover of numismatic books. I last spoke with John several months ago and had promised to accept his invitation to stay at his home during my next visit to Southern California. Sadly, that day will not come. Our hobby has lost yet another gem.

Teresa Darling:

I wish also to say goodbye to a very dear person, a true gentleman and a very great asset to the numismatic fraternity. I bought many books and had many great conversations with John as well as Mary, a sweet lady. I am truly sorry to hear this news. At the last Long Beach Show when John was missing we called Mary who would only say that John had been very sick but if we needed anything "just call". I saw John and Mary's son grow up every four months at Long Beach, he is a terrific young man and I am glad to know that he and Mary have each other right now.

All my sympathies, thoughts and regrets go to the family.

Thom Bray:

John Bergman was a gentleman. The world of numismatics,

indeed the world itself, is a smaller place tonight.

Stephen Pradier:

I wish to offer my condolences over the passing of John Bergman. I just recently started to acquire out-of-print numismatic literature. It was only last month that I called and spoke with him and placed an order for books with him. I am certain that others who share his interest will miss him. The Internet allowed me to locate John and to recently become a member of NBS.

David Sklow:

Sherry and I were deeply saddened by the news of John Bergman's passing. I have known John for more than twenty years, and considered him a good friend. He was always the calm, cool and collected one! The last time I saw John was when he attended the auction of another fellow bibliophile who left us before his time, the Ken Lowe sale last November in Dearborn. There is definitely truth in the saying, "the good die young." I know I speak for all of the numismatic brotherhood, when I say John will be missed!! If there was one thing I learned from him, it was if you are going to sell numismatic literature, do it right and pack it right!! You never wanted him to find a book touching the inside edges of a carton! We have lost four giants of numismatic literature in the last few years, I only wonder what great stories, Bergman, Champa, Collins and Lowe are swapping

upstairs!

Dave Michaels:

John was a true friend, a gentle soul who never failed to brighten my day at Long Beach and elsewhere. I am heartsick and in a state of shock to hear of his death. My deepest condolences and sympathy to all John's relations, and to everyone who has gotten to know him over the years. I am too sad to say anything else right now, except John, I'll miss you.

Joel J. Orosz:

Wilson Mizner once remarked that "under the phony tinsel of Hollywood you will find the real tinsel." John Bergman was just the opposite: the integrity that was so evident on the surface of the man went right down to his core. John was thus a natural choice to be treasurer of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society in its early years. Everyone knew the books would balance to the last cent and that the votes would be tallied with 100% accuracy. What tells you something about the man, however, is that even after his term as treasurer ended, successive presidents asked him to keep counting the ballots, because they knew that not even a hint of vote fraud could ever be suspected when the result was announced by John Bergman. One might think that such a paragon of rectitude would be a stuffed shirt: dull and uninspiring. Nothing could have been further from the truth, John's robust laugh was unforgettable; I can remember hearing it from

three aisles away at an ANA convention. He never took himself too seriously, never flaunted the considerable knowledge that he possessed, never got involved in petty or pointless controversies. He was, in many ways, like the antiquarian numismatic books that he so dearly loved: a rarity that had stood the test of time, full of wisdom and delight for all.

I last talked with John a few months ago, when I called to order a book from his website. We talked literature, of course, but he also spoke of the joys of being retired, of spending time with family, and especially, of playing with his young grandson. What a comfort it is to think of how happy he was at the end, but what a sadness to think of how prematurely he has left us. His is a legacy of decency, honor, bibliophilia, and true friendship. We may aspire to match John as a collector, or as a dealer, but we will never be able to surpass his stature as a man of sheer class. Farewell old friend there will never be another like you.

Michael Billings:

John Bergman lived and worked 10 minutes from my office in Cerritos California. The last time I saw him was the first time I visited his home in July of this year. I went to purchase a copy of *The Fantastic 1804 Dollar* after attending the ANA Summer Conference, telling him that the book was to be signed by the authors. I said that I intended spending many lunch hours at

his place to find biblio-treasures. He seemed to find this amusing. I only regret that I didn't follow up on my intent. I reasoned, when I remembered, that I knew where John was and I could go see him whenever I found the time, inclination or need.

He was a gentleman, a rather rare quality these days. He was quiet, unassuming with a light sense of humor. Always polite and helpful. I can, in my mind's eye, visualize the living room of his home and the rooms where his books were stored.

I always visited his booth at the Long Beach show, many times buying nothing but always taking away the feeling that I didn't have to buy from him in order to be his and his lovely wife's friendly acquaintance. I certainly noticed his absence at the recent Long Beach Convention. He was a fixture in the far left corner of the hall. Many people I spoke with noticed his absence too. He was missed. I thought he didn't show up because of the work involved in lugging all those books around. He told me a couple times in the past that he didn't know if the work and effort was worth the return he received from setting up at the show. If the friends and acquaintances he made through Long Beach are anything to judge by, perhaps it was worth all the effort he exerted. For if were not for his participation, I and many others like me would have never come to know him. I only wish I would have known him better but am thankful for the oppor-

tunity I had to know him at all.

My thoughts and prayers are with his family. Numismatics has lost a great asset, he will be missed.

Jess Patrick:

The passing of John Bergman leaves me in shock. I was always glad to see him at every Long Beach Show and spent quite a lot of time with him at those shows considering how busy he usually was. I always felt at ease with John and never had anything but a pleasant transaction with him. He was always very trustworthy and straightforward in his dealings as well as in giving information. I will miss his charm, great sense of humor, and perhaps most of all his extraordinary council on my numismatic book purchases which I have come to rely upon so heavily. His council was of course based on his vast knowledge of numismatic literature which, coupled with the above attributes, put him at the top of his profession. I trusted John enough that had I died prematurely he was to be asked to liquidate my numismatic books. I will really, really miss John and forever remember him on those occasions when I glance to the back of the room at any Long Beach Show and find his absence in my world.

Jim Stofle:

I received the sad news of John Bergman's death and wanted to respond to the requests for remi-

niscences about John.

I've collected coins for 35 years but didn't know anything about the availability of older numismatic reference books until I wandered into the back of the hall at the Long Beach Coin Show in the early 1990's and had the good fortune to meet John and his lovely wife.

John sold me a book I'd wanted for years and got me excited about building a library of numismatic reference material.

John always had a warm smile to greet me with and an entertaining story or two to pass the time. John was always glad to see me when I stopped by and it didn't matter whether I spent two cents or two hundred dollars with him. He was always generous with his time and genuinely interested in my collecting interests. John was a class act in a hobby that needs more people like him.

Bill Murray:

I'm not sure when I first met John Bergman, but from the first he impressed me with his knowledge, but more importantly with being a gentleman. In our hobby we often spend most of our time getting to know people at long distance. It was that way for me with John. Many times I vowed I would find an opportunity to spend some meaningful time with him one-one as one of the stalwarts of our hobby and the world. It's my loss it never happened.

Checking in at the Hotel California:

A Visit with John Bergman

and George Kolbe*

by Wayne Homren

Bibliophiles beware: you never know when a fellow book nut will show up at your doorstep. Last summer, when presented with the chance to attend a conference in the Los Angeles area, I immediately volunteered and quickly placed calls to both John Bergman and George Kolbe.

A few weeks later, my plane touched down at LAX, late on a Saturday afternoon. After checking into my room at the Anaheim Hilton, I called my friend Cathy Rivi, a co-worker who had arrived earlier on a different flight. We met in the lobby where John Bergman was waiting to greet us. We climbed into John's van for the ride back to his home in Lakewood.

Pulling into the Bergman driveway, I noticed a tell-tale sign: drawn curtains in the garage window. All true bibliophile households share a common characteristic: all non-essential space has been commandeered for bookshelves. After the den and spare bedroom, the garage is always the next to go, followed by other non-essential areas like

the family room, hallways, and children's bedrooms. At least John waited until the kids had grown and moved out. (Or did he squeeze them out, one book at a time...?)

John's lovely wife Mary greeted us and soon filled the coffee table with a tempting array of cookies and liquid refreshments. The dining room table was already filled with a display of books from John's numismatic library. His specialty is fine and unusual bindings, and the books displayed were magnificent examples of the bookbinder's art. Some highlights:

American Numismatics

The first work which caught my eye was F.D. Andrews, *U.S. Copper Cents 1816-1857*. John had six different editions: Andrews, Mehl, Guttag, and three by Hewitt.

I also saw M.W. Dickenson's *The American Numismatical Manual*, (Philadelphia, 1865). The third edition with the original blind stamped green cloth with an 1849 twenty dollar gold

***Author's Note:** This article was written in 1992, but as far as anyone I have asked can remember, it was never published, at least not in *The Asylum*. Now, with John's death, it seems fitting to recall this meeting between John, George and myself. Hopefully it will illustrate why John has left behind so many friends and so many happy memories.

piece embossed in gilt on the front cover. The cloth binding exhibits original sheen.

F.W. Doughty, *The Cents of the United States* (New York, 1890). A pristine copy in original cloth with the gilt impression of a wreath cent on the front cover.

Foreign Numismatics

P. Delarouche, *Tresor de numismatique et du Glyptique*. Three folio volumes superbly bound in full levant moroco and richly decorated in gilt. Both sides with gilt embossed emblem of the "Order of the Garter"

J. Millingen and A.L. Millin, *Historie metallique de Napoleon..., avec le supplement* (Paris 1819-21). The finest binding in John's library, this magnificent copy was bound by R.P. Ginain, binder to King Louis-Philippe, in full dark green grained morocco with ornate gilt and blind decoration, all edges gilt, with green silk endsheets.

J.F. Valliant, *Seleucidarum Imperium, Sive Historia Regnum Syriae* (The Hague, 1732). The binding was full contemporary pressed morocco with finely gilt decorated spine compartments and gilt paneled sides. Heavily gilt edges, with the paper as fresh as the day it was made.

The doorbell rang and in walked Jack Collins. Jack and I had met only briefly at an earlier ANA convention, but had talked on the phone recently when I called to order a hardbound copy of his Washingtonia catalogue. We all sat and chatted for a while, on topics ranging from earthquakes, real estate, and

health care, to (naturally) numismatic literature and dealing in the same.

We took a tour through John's crowded but neat office, library, and duplicate stock. More lovely volumes were to be found on the shelves, including: Marvin's *Masonic Medals*, Burns' *Coinage of Scotland* and various editions of Heath's *Counterfeit Detector*.

Eventually we all grew hungry enough to start thinking about dinner. Mexican, we decided, and soon we all piled into John's van for a trip to a nearby restaurant, where margaritas and Mexican beers quenched our thirst. More pleasant conversation ensued, and Jack entertained us with stories of the changing culture of his neighborhood, where custom apparently dictates against the use of mufflers on cars.

Having too much fun to retire early, we decide to drive over to Long Beach and take in the sights. We parked the van and the five of us strolled onto the decks of the *Queen Mary*, the luxury ocean liner turned hotel, shopping mall, and tourist attraction. The Bergman's son was recently married in the ship's wedding chapel.

We continued our conversation while walking the ship's decks, enjoying the cool breeze and viewing the city's twinkling skyline. The ears of Kay and Armand Champa must have been burning that night; we thought of them several times, and looked forward to seeing them at the upcoming ANA convention.

By 11:30 (2:30am Pittsburgh time) it was time to call it a night. As John dropped Cathy and I off at our hotel, he and I made plans to meet again the next morning for a journey to Crestline.

John arrived right on time Sunday morning, and steered the van toward the freeway. The hour and twenty-minute ascent into the mountains gave us plenty of time to talk numismatics. One sobering thought was the sad state of numismatic organizations across the country. John lamented that the median age of the regular members in his Orange County club is around 70. That doesn't bode well for the club's future.

The twisting ride up the mountainside afforded us breathtaking views at every turn. Around 11am we pulled into George Kolbe's driveway. His lovely wood-framed home blended neatly into the hillside, and was shrouded by several tall trees. George ushered us into his office and before long John and I were examining a tremendous stock of numismatic literature. We also looked at a number of nice items consigned to George's next sale, including a rare plated Elder catalogue. The owner, oblivious to the catalog's significance, had stored it for many years in a box in his garage.

Time passed quickly and soon George's wife Linda was ringing the lunch bell. She'd prepared a delicious lasagna complimented by the tastiest salad and garlic bread I'd had in years. A finer meal could not be had in any

restaurant, and no restaurant could top the rich brownies we had for dessert.

Drowsy but fortified, John, George, and I returned to the office for more book browsing. John selected a boxful of books to buy, and I made several selections of my own. My purchases included a number of recent, but elusive titles, many pertaining to U.S. Mint history:

Mint Histories

R. Barfield and K. Strawn, *The Bechtlers and Their Coinage: North Carolina Mint Masters of Pioneer Gold* (Raleigh, NC, 1980).

E.S. Ferguson, editor, *Early Engineering Reminiscences (1815-40) of George Escal Sellers* (Washington, 1965). This Smithsonian Institution bulletin includes a chapter relating the story of Sellers' visit to the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia as a young boy. Chief Coiner Adam Eckfeldt handed the lad a freshly-coined cent, which he promptly dropped since it was still hot from the coining press.

B. McGinty, *Haraszthy at the Mint* (Los Angeles, 1975). Hungarian immigrant Agoston Haraszthy was a colorful California pioneer who served as assayer for the first San Francisco Mint.

H.H. Wilkinson, *The Mint Museum of Art at Charlotte* (Charlotte, 1973)

Other Titles

I also picked up a few other titles of interest. Castenholz and Sons, *The Numismatic Messenger*, volumes 1-2 (1971-1972), bound

in red cloth.

J.G. Lipsius, *A Bibliography of Numismatic Books Printed Before 1800, with The Supplement to 1866* by J. Leitzmann (Colchester, 1977) [Drury reprint]

Budget constraints kept me from purchasing everything which caught my fancy. Chamberlain's 1963 work on *American Medals and Medallists* would have to wait for another time. I also had to pass on a copy of Virtuoso's *Companion* with a hometown pedigree. The book held the library stamp of former Pittsburgher Dr. Robert J. Hudson. The antiquarian volume had previously been owned by W.S. Appleton.

To get some fresh air, John, George and I drove down the road to the nearby ruin of a 1930's era mansion, which had burned to the ground in a fire a few years earlier. We walked through the graffiti-covered grounds perched at the very edge of the mountain, commanding a spectacular view of the hills and valley below. The powerful updraft seemed enough to blow a person back from the edge.

Just up the road, we saw people leaping off the cliff, soaring high into the air while dangling from their colorful hang-gliders. We watched, gawked, and shook our heads and got back into our landlocked van and returned to the house.

Over beer we chatted some more about books, numismatics, numismatists, dealers, dead-beats, and sundry ne'er-do-wells. I lamented having been "born

too late" to take advantage of the all-time bargains in numismatic literature. We agreed that if one person had come along at the right place and time, it was John J. Ford. In the course of his career Ford had the opportunity to acquire the most important rarities in numismatics and numismatic literature at a time when few others appreciated their value and significance.

George told us about his new catalogue for Armand Champa's 1991 ANA exhibit of "Numismatic Americana," showing us copies of his final draft. By a fluke of alphabetization, an item I traded to Armand ended up being the first listing: John Beck's deluxe half leather copy of *Edgar Adams' Private Gold Coinage of California, 1849-55*. I had purchased the book along with many others at the estate sale of Justin Lees, Beck's son-in-law. After being reminded of that sale, I comforted myself with the thought that good bargains go overlooked by every generation, and that opportunities are always around us. I can only hope that another such opportunity will present itself someday.

While it seemed that we had only just arrived, John and I had put in nearly a full 8 hour day at the Kolbe's; it was time to go. We bade George farewell and began rolling back down the mountain. At the hotel I again thanked John for his hospitality and headed for my room. The coming week's conference activities could be no match for my memories of the past weekend.

John Frederick Bergman Numismatic Bookseller - Friend

By George F. Kolbe

I met John in the late 1970s – perhaps at my June 1979 sale which he attended in Los Angeles during the Convention of International Numismatics. He then appeared to be quiet and retiring but I soon learned that he could be, and often was, the life of the party. As I write this, John has been gone from us nearly two weeks. I have read the many fine tributes in the *E-sylum* and elsewhere, and have wished to make a contribution. But the words would not come and, even now, I am at a loss as to how to adequately convey what John meant to our community and to me.

John Bergman was an unassuming giant. Honesty, integrity, humility, talent, keen intelligence, capacity, compassion, a sometimes outrageous sense of humor — all were qualities he had in abundance. The longer I knew him the more I admired him. I traveled to Lakewood for his sales, and, for two decades, he traveled the ninety minutes to Crestline to participate in most of my auction sales held over that period. Usually there was a lull in the telephone bidding when John and I could visit personally. This past June, the last time I saw him, he attended the fourth Bass sale in June. During that sale ANA President H. Robert Campbell came to the podium and requested a short

break so that John could be presented an ANA award. To say that John was dragged kicking and screaming from the auction is not all that great an exaggeration. After John's funeral, a close friend of his asked me about this award. It seems that John's family could not find the award, nor had John told them anything about it, though I clearly recall the pleased look on his face as he returned to the sale room.

During the sale telephone/fax/email bidding slowed down for a short period in the mid-afternoon, and John and I had time to brag on our sons, in their 30s and attending, at different campuses, the University of California – both doing extremely well in their respective studies. John also spoke of his grandchild, whom he obviously doted on, and about how much he was enjoying selling numismatic literature through his web site, customized price lists, and attendance at the three annual Long Beach coin shows. His son Jim told me that the past two years were the most enjoyable of John's life.

In April 1991, John and I journeyed to Frankfurt, Germany to attend the two-day, 2700 lot auction sale of the important Adolph Hess numismatic library, conducted by the venerable auction firm of Dr. Busso Peus Nacht. It was John's first over-

seas sale. Each day the sale started at 9:00 a.m.; there was an hour lunch break at noon; then the sale resumed – scheduled to end at 7:00 p.m., but on both days the sale continued beyond the time allotted, on the final day until after 9:00 p.m. if memory serves. Both John and I were exhausted, though not scheduled to return home until two days following the sale. On Wednesday, May 1st, after a good night's rest, we spent the day together on a boat tour up the Rhine. I have very fond memories of that day. Vineyards beginning to stir on the carefully sloped hillsides, a castle seemingly on the top of every rise, pleasant village and city stops along a river steeped in history, where we indulged, with gusto, in the calming drafts of the local brewmasters, and traditional German cuisine. Fair weather, charming scenery, most of all, good company and much laughter. There are so many other good times that we shared but I expect that this memory of John will stand out in days to come.

Neither John nor I came from the world of academia. We both married young, and well, and soon we had families to raise. John pursued a career as a sheet metal worker, eventually designing, fabricating, and installing massive heating and air conditioning ductwork for a large Southern California firm. I recall several years ago that he spent nearly a year working near Los Angeles International Airport on a major industrial project. My career in supermarket manage-

ment became less than fulfilling in the 1970s and, upon the success of my first numismatic literature auction in 1976, over the next few years I devoted my energies to becoming a fulltime numismatic bookseller.

Southern California in the late 1970s was a veritable numismatic literature mecca. Locals such as Jack Collins, Alan Meghrig, John and myself, frequent visitors like Armand Champa (L. A. was figuratively a hop, skip, and a jump from his favored Riviera Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas), Cal Wilson and Jesse Patrick from Northern California, John Adams and Harry Bass making the occasional foray from parts East, and others I am surely unfairly forgetting to mention — all combined to make the area a hotbed of activity for rare and desirable American numismatic literature. In reality, none of us then knew nothin'. As we all learned, we carved out careers and/or formed fine libraries, and had a tremendous amount of fun in the process.

Things have changed. Two of our bookends, Jack, and John, are no longer with us; Armand Champa, everyone's best customer, is gone; others' shelves became filled or their interests strayed. Many new bibliophiles have joined the fray, and the game is every bit as exciting as it was two decades ago. But Jack and John, two of the best friends numismatic literature ever had, are no longer here to bid us up, cheer us on, and keep us informed. It will not be the same.

Remembering John Bergman

By Karl Moulton

John Bergman was one of the nicest guys you would ever want to meet. His honesty and gracious manner were a welcome influence in the numismatic market place; and he thoroughly enjoyed numismatic literature, especially antiquarian books about ancient coinage.

It was several years ago, during one of our many visits with John and his lovely wife Mary, that he related a story about a book he was currently reading. He mentioned that he wasn't the craziest book collector after all. The book he was reading was titled, *A Gentle Kind of Madness*. For those not familiar with the contents, it's a work filled with stories about "overly dedicated" book collectors.

He loved to eat. When Jenny and I would head to the Long Beach shows, where John and Mary would set up against the back wall, we would usually go out to dinner with them afterwards. There were numerous times when we ended up at the local buffet.

Naturally, the dinner conversations were filled with John relating stories about numismatic literature, collectors and background events relating to earlier purchases he had made. One rather humorous incident was a taxi cab ride he had in New York city while attending a Kolbe/Spink sale. Apparently, he was "taken for a ride" by the

cabby. John laughed when he said, "it would have been cheaper to rent a car for the week!"

John was good at laughing. He would even laugh at his own jokes. It always made you feel good and want to laugh, too.

Although he was a serious student of numismatic literature, he never lost his friendly outlook while conducting business. The only time I ever saw a strong emotional outburst from John was at the Bass IV Sale conducted by George Kolbe in June 2000. Although no one knew it at the time, this would be the last numismatic literature auction he would ever attend. John took a seat in the rear corner of the room, which was his usual spot. Several hours into the sale, in walked ANA president Robert Campbell, who slowly made his way to the podium. In between lots, Campbell had a brief discussion with Kolbe. George then made an announcement that "there will be a short break" while Campbell turned around and headed back out. All of a sudden we heard John yell, "Oh for crying out loud!", as he slammed his pencil down. Everyone watched as he was escorted from the room by a smiling Campbell and an aide.

I happened to glance back at Kolbe's face which was turning redder by the second, and he was chuckling just like Santa.

Soon after John had left the

room, there was some good-hearted comments tossed around. First was that he had forgotten to pay his ANA dues. The someone thought he did not pay for parking and they had towed his van. Finally, George related that John was going to receive the ANA President's Award for distinguished service. George also said

he knew of no one more deserving.

John Bergman never wanted to bother anyone with his troubles. That is why he never let it be known that he was battling cancer; a struggle which he lost early on the morning of October 18, 2000. He was a true prince among men and he will be fondly remembered.

Get on Board with *The E-Sylum*

The weekly e-mail newsletter of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society

Hundreds of bibliophiles around the U.S. and the world subscribe to this free publication, containing news and information about NBS and numismatic literature in general.

To subscribe, write to Wayne Homren at
whomren@coinlibrary.com

For more information, see the NBS web site at
<http://www.coinbooks.org/>

How to Pack Books*

By John F. Bergman

The proper packing of books for shipping is all about common sense. Unfortunately, as Will Rogers said: "The thing about common sense is that it is just not that common." This pretty much sums up the sorry state of book packing. Proper packing takes little longer than poor packing and the cost difference is very slight.

Don'ts:

1. Never allow any corner of any book to be directly against any corner or any box.
2. Don't pack loose books (books must be wrapped in paper or placed in bags within the box).
3. Do not use second hand boxes. Used boxes that have lost their shape have also lost their structural strength.
4. Do not use shoe, donut, gift-wrapping or tissue (Kleenex) boxes for shipping books. Boxes should be of corrugated construction and a minimum of 200 pounds per square inch bursting strength. Heavier weight boxes or doubled boxes may be required with
5. very heavy or fragile books. Do not use non-compressible fill around books. The force of an impact will transfer through the fill and damage the books. Compressible yet resilient fill is a must. It can be reused and includes all of the following: foam loose fill cushioning ('peanuts'), foam or cellulose roll cushioning, shredded paper, crumpled paper (newspapers are ideal), bubble wrap, corrugated sheets and pads, etc.
6. Do not tie boxes with string, rope or bands. This is still a widely used method in Europe but is not acceptable in the United States and with good reason. These ties tend to get stuck in machinery with potential damage to both the package and contents. Even worse is the common European practice of wrapping books in one or more layers of bubble wrap and then tying the package with string. The string invariably leaves dents and or grooves in the books. Instead of using these ties, use rein-

***Editor's Note:** One thing upon which John Bergman was always adamant was the proper packing of the books which he sent to his customers. I often joked that John sent the books which I bought as if they were to survive a nuclear war. On the other hand, any book which you ordered from him was never damaged by the shipper. John wrote and published the following essay in *The Asylum* 8/2 (1990), pp.19-21. It is presented here, and on the NBS website, through the kind generosity of his family. It is my hope that it will serve as a proper "how to" for book dealers for generations to come.

forced tape around the box, in both directions, if necessary.

7. Don't use padded mailers (Jiffy bags) for shipping soft bound books or catalogs unless they are first wrapped in at least a double layer of heavy cardboard with the catalog immobilized within. The cardboard must be larger than the catalog in order that the corners will not be crushed. It is not always safe to ship even a light weight hard bound books in a padded mailer as there is little protection from bending and corner banging. Use padded mailers only sparingly and in conjunction with additional internal protection.
8. Don't ship packages that are not properly sealed. All box flaps must be sealed and additionally, on heavy boxes or packages shipped overseas, all of the folded edges should be taped as well. Large or heavy boxes require more tape. One layer of the standard 1.8 mil carton sealing tape applied down the center of the box flaps is not sufficient for any package! [I have received boxes weighing 40 pounds and more sealed in this manner. In one case the tape was broken and the books ready to fall out. In another case some of the books were missing and in another the box was empty]
9. Don't expect any carrier to "Handle with care", regardless of what instructions you stamp on the box. In one instance I asked a large U.S.

bookseller to pack with compressible fill around all of the book corners, instead they shipped 35 pounds of books in a box exactly the size of the contents with instructions written on all six sides of the box reading: "DO NOT DROP ON THE CORNERS". Needless to say the box was dropped and two books had damaged corners. [Conveyor belts, catapults, and other package handling equipment don't read instructions nor do employees who are often working under time and quota conditions].

Do's:

1. Preparing the contents: Arrange the books to be shipped in pyramid shaped piles with the largest book on the bottom and the smallest book on the top. Make the stacks a minimum of from 1/2 to 1 inch less than the height of the box to be used. The books can be wrapped individually but this is not absolutely necessary unless the books are very fragile. The entire stack can be wrapped in paper (newspaper is not recommended as the ink can transfer to the book covers especially if they are light in color). Plastic bags are good and very quick, just be sure that the bags are closed with tape so that the compressible fill does not come in contact with or become wedged into the leaves or dust jackets of the books. Note: As the spines of bound books are thicker than the fore-edges, it

is a good practice to rotate each successive book 180 degrees so that the stacks do not become lop sided.

2. Packing the box: The correct size box is critical. Select a box that is at least 3 to 4 inches longer and 1/2 to 1-inch wider minimum than the stack or stacks of books to be shipped. Before placing the stacks of books in the box lay at least a 1/4-inch thick layer of cardboard, bubble wrap or other padding in the bottom of the box. Center the stack or stacks of books in the box. Fill the space all around the books with the compressible material making sure that the fill is very tightly pressed in (this is especially important with foam 'peanuts' as they tend to settle during shipping which will allow the books to move around). Never place the books against a corner of the box and fill in the remaining two sides. Invariably, the box will be dropped on this unprotected corner and the book corners will be banged. [This is by far the most common mistake made in packing and some of the biggest and oldest numismatic booksellers in the world do it time and time again].
3. Closing the box: Before closing the box, lay at least a 1/4 inch thick layer of cardboard, bubble wrap or other padding

on top of the stack of books. This step is critical as many inexperienced book collectors will slash away with a razor knife at the box flaps. If there is no protection the knife may cut into the books. In closing the box it is very important to use a strong tape. Gummed, reinforced Kraft tape is probably the best, but those who pack boxes only occasionally will find polypropylene carton-sealing tape strong enough and easier to use. Use plenty of tape especially on heavy packages. Once the box is closed, it is important to protect the address label from damage. This is easily accomplished by covering the label with clear polypropylene tape. UPS does this on all packages but the U.S. Postal Service does not.

We realize that many reading these packing recommendations are not booksellers and will only occasionally pack books. If the job of book packing seems too difficult, we recommend that you take the books to a professional packing service. For those of you who want to do it yourself, you will find that all of the materials mentioned are readily available at office supply stores. The U.S. Postal Service will even supply boxes free of charge for certain priority and express mail material.

Ard W. Browning Comes Home

By Carl R. Herkowitz

Had the legendary Ard W. Browning never written his signature numismatic work – *The Early Quarter Dollars Of The United States*, denied himself the destiny that became his defining moment, then his mysterious life and its enduring and endearing significance would now be naught, lived through and done, ever lost and slipped in among the passing sands of time. While fate reclaimed him from such outright oblivion, Browning's self-imposed anonymity (attributable to working and living in Central Islip, a large, early-20th century state mental hospital) certainly simulated as closely as possible said oblivion that was only incidentally thwarted by his supreme accomplishment. Indeed, he did write *The Early Quarter Dollars Of The United States* — a masterwork — the groundbreaking definitive reference, a latter day cousin in spirit to Audubon's iconic *Birds of America* in its specialty, its realm. And his invisible, inviting life impels research today, 67 years after his death.

Charles Davis sees Browning as "one of the most invisible personages of American numismatics."¹ Later, in cataloguing the Champa library sale he fur-

ther wrote

Browning is the most invisible numismatic author with absolutely no positive proof surfacing to date that he, at least as a numismatist, ever existed. An application in that name for membership in the A.N.A. was sponsored by two dealers, Rud. Kohler and Julius Gutttag, and he became a member effective February, 1925 giving a P. O. box in Central Islip, Long Island as an address. And that is where the trail ends. Despite the notice in the preface that the coins depicted on the plates are from the author's collection, no 'Browning' collection with these coins has been identified. And the superb text is not that of a novice, nor does it seem to be from the pen of the sometimes cryptic Raymond...²

This year, Eric Li Cheung wrote that "If Ard W. Browning existed, he certainly was an evanescent character not known to many collectors and numismatists."³

His signature work detoured from being precisely that, as, characteristically consistent with his ever mysterious self, the very name appearing in the book, credited as the author, is "designed" as "A. W. Browning" — either a suggestion realized on the part of his eminent publisher, Wayte Raymond, as a practical alternative to the use of

¹C.E. Davis, *American Numismatic Literature, An Annotated Survey of Auction Sales, 1980-1991* (Lincoln, 1992), p. 28.

²C.E. Davis, *The Armand Champa Library Sale, Part II*, Bowers and Merena, Inc., 23 March 1995, p. 51, lot 1102.

³E.L. Cheung, "Draped Bust quarters, 1796-1807," *The Numismatist* 113 (2000), p.663.

the unfamiliar name "Ard," or more likely, an ultimate Central Islip ruse from our hero — perhaps an agreement, a consensus of the two! Did Raymond know Browning's secret, or just the location "P. O. Box 539" in the town of Central Islip? This phantomlike renaissance man Browning, a Dr. Livingstone to our accumulative Stanley, this single-handed stylist of the standard itself ... and the very rare standard edition, the revered deluxe interleaved edition, and those unique photographic glass negatives of "bibliophilic" lore — the singular driving force of a simon-pure studious pursuit, then later a time-honored legacy that evolved largely following his passing and due only to its own greatness.

Enigmatic, *Arduous* (W.) taskmaster nonpareil, the undaunted, devoted author/innovator can now be known to have died on Wednesday, May 24, 1933, at 1:45 p.m., at the age of 64. Hail a king forever akin to his beloved bust quarter series! The very name (and numbers) Browning has become a veritable byline to these pioneer silver coins of 1796-1838. Since the 1997 *Asylum* article in which benefactor Ard was seen in substance as an actual person, an employee/resident stenographer and "silent" author at the Central Islip State Hospital in Central Islip, Suffolk County, Long Island, New York.⁴ Since that recent time of his real-life re-emergence, Lady Luck, smil-

ing upon the continuance of a quest of a dream so fine, has forwarded research to uncover yet more documental information from his life and death. While the everyday particulars of his story are still unknown, a veiled presence now begins to take form a step or two out from the confining shadows. A fond exception to the oft-repeated assertion of leading American novelist Thomas Wolfe, Ard W. Browning is coming home.

Out from the shadows and the veneer of P. O. Box 539. The same place, that hidden corner of New York State, where he labored with the painstaking devotion of a scholastic monk to meticulously arrange and classify all those intricate varieties in unerringly completing his mission, done entirely or in part during the seven years prior to publication while endeavoring within the walls of what was often commonly referred to as a crazy house! Moreover, to think, to even defy thought, that a mere several additional varieties have supplemented his original 90 in the intervening 75 years since the debut of Early Quarter Dollars — a Promethean triumph, a "labor of love" as a gift to us all, now as new sources of information come to light.

The clue: prior to the 1997 article, a revealing comment in a letter from then ANA Library Assistant Nancy Givan regarding her search for fresh information on Browning at the Colorado Springs facility:

4 C.R. Herkowitz, "Ard W. Browning through a 1920 looking glass," *The Asylum* 15/3 (1997), pp.8-12.

Could not find any personal information anywhere. And I did exhaust this library. He was a subscriber to the George Heath Memorial Fund in October, 1925. I did find his membership to ANA, 1925-1933. He joined February 1, 1925, last dues were paid December, 1932 for year 1933.⁵

Hail Columbia! The Depression years 1932 and 1933, a scrimping time when one, especially a published authority over 60 years of age and living in the medical technologies of two-thirds of a century ago, would just not likely abandon paid-up dues in a favored national hobby association. Most fortunately re-reading her pivotal letter following the publication of the earlier article, after having come to "know" him better, it seemed fairly elementary that brother Ard had left this mortal coil while at his hospital post either in December, 1932 or during 1933.

Spurred onward to once again contact the Pilgrim Psychiatric Center in West Brentwood, New York, the repository of existing personnel records of former Central Islip State Hospital employees (having first approached that facility while researching "Looking Glass"), helpful Registrar Margaret Simai and Associate Director Milo Maldonado promptly and faithfully replied, stating that Browning's employee record was destroyed ten years after his death in accordance with then New York State law. De jà vu.

Ard's ghost was determinedly holding hard and fast to his historical invisibility and invincibility, but for the bequeathance of an enclosure this second time around, of another document routinely also requested, a treasure literally from that asylum for *The Asylum!* Gracing the surprisingly thick envelope received from Pilgrim Psychiatric Center was an "answer," a transcending discovery piece — a photocopy of Browning's death certificate! Standing there alone in my living room, that sheet of history in hand, a 1925 original of his book on the table, his photographic glass negatives honoring the hallway closet, in a privileged, sublime moment, an ethereal covenant with Ard himself, rejoicing to welcome our Tut back to the world of those whose lives had at least, at last, provided a background, an authoritative basis of vital statistics upon which to build! The 1920 census sheet and card, together that single "bone," that entranceway to his life, now had a companion piece, a further source of continuity — the formerly transparent Ard W. Browning could doff his proverbial cap and take another bow in spirit, for while conspicuously silent in life, even maddeningly so, he had spoken in death for the second time. True to her exhaustive though anything but futile search, the inadvertently "Givan" clue was a bolt from the blue!

The resulting death certificate

⁵Letter from Nancy Givan to author dated October 24, 1995.

naturally represents "a new country heard from," an endowment of simple names and numbers, data begetting more data, summoning forth the man who was Browning. Diagnosed on May 20, 1933 by Dr. Ferdinand Pitrelli, the direct cause of death was lobar pneumonia, with chronic myocarditis as a contributory cause. The document updates and clarifies pertinent information, and serves to correct a key item of misinformation entered into the census sheet and card. According to the pedestrian, matter-of-fact death certificate, Ard W. Browning was born on January 12, 1869. The discrepancy between that accurate and precise date and the "1871 or 1872" calculations in the 1997 "Asylum" text is due to a lone bit of misinformation in the census sheet and card. Browning was a day short of 51 on January 11, 1920 rather than 48 as reported in the census. Whether an intentional "youth movement" or an innocent, momentary lapse, 48 had understandably appeared certain at the time. To err is human, and the "Looking Glass" text, while in a flight of fancy, also analogized the mysterious disappearance of Judge (Joseph Force) Crater as another 1925 original, when actually he disappeared on August 6, 1930 — perhaps he was hard-pressed to do anything right!

The death certificate states Ard's birthplace as Chicago, Illinois, the whereabouts of Mrs.

O'Leary's cow. Recent inquiry in order to bring to light a copy of his birth certificate proved fruitless, as, unfortunately, none was to be had. Thusly the Illinois Secretary of State Office official reply

In response to your inquiry, we searched the Cook County birth index (1871-1916), and were unable to locate a record of the birth of Ard W. Browning. Like most county level records for Cook County, birth records prior to October, 1871 were destroyed by the Great Fire of Chicago. Therefore, if Ard W. Browning was born before October, 1871 in Cook County, any record of his birth would have been destroyed by the fire.⁶

With no application ever made by Ard's parents for a replacement birth certificate, so then what else is new in the elusive life of this highly admired slippery eel, this Cool Hand Luke of circumstantial anonymity! Could he just possibly have ridden with Butch Cassidy and The Sundance Kid in the 1890s?

Browning again is seen to have been single rather than married. The death certificate expressly states that he worked "in hospital," and also records him to have resided in Central Islip, "...city or town where death occurred," for "14 years, 5 months, 18 days." This is the duration of his employment at the hospital, answering now the 1997 "Looking Glass" call for 2002 census information to determine if he had remained at

⁶Barbara Heflin, Office of the Secretary of State of Illinois; letter to author dated August 16, 1999.

his hospital station into the 1930s. Yes, he had, right up to May 20, 1933, and, then lingering for four days, there he died. Curiously, he is listed to have spent exactly 15 years as a hospital stenographer, indicating that he had earlier worked for about six and a half months at a different hospital. What else had he done throughout his first 49 years, up until the late Spring of 1918 when he entered this known avocation?

There were three people who could have filled in many details, if only such convenience and timing had been in Ard's stars. His father was William H. Browning, of Dayton, Ohio, thereby identifying with great near-positive certainty the name behind that part-and-parcel middle initial "W." — Ard William Browning. Expounding further, in a more contemplative sense, rather than naming Ard this extremely rare appellation perhaps after a grandfather (his name is even rarer than the book, being near the uniqueness of the glass negatives!), he could still possibly have received his full name from his father. Hypothetically, if his father's middle initial "H" happened to stand for Howard, then 131 years ago our Ard may have been named "Howard," and the regional derivative, the 19th century dialect, had in turn shortened the pronunciation to "Ard"!⁵ Howard William

Browning, a proper reversal of his father's name. Over time he could have come to recognize himself as "Ard," or simply preferred the more familiar abbreviation over the given name "Howard." At some point, he may have changed "Howard" to "Ard."

Another possibility is that Ard may have a Biblical origin. Two Ards are recorded in the Bible.⁷ In view of the tendency in 19th century America to use biblical names, even very obscure ones, this possibility cannot be discounted.

Regrettably, due to the fire, hopeful inquiry cannot be made on the possible January 12, 1869 Chicago birth of a Howard William Browning. No application was ever made for a replacement birth certificate in that name, and, considering all chances, "howevard" remote, no such person was born in Chicago during post-October, 1871 or in 1872. Finally, intriguingly, the 1917 *New York Numismatic Club Year Book* membership list, in compounding, further confounding the riddle—while adhering to a style that lists others as "Dr. Geo. P. French," "Ed. T. Newell" and "Wm. Hesslein" has Browning interestingly listed as "Ard. W. Browning" If "Ard" were short for "Howard" based upon the style of this list, Browning should have appeared as "Hwd. W. Browning." Instead, the

⁷*Genesis* 46:21 records an Ard son of Benjamin while *Numbers* 26:40. notes an Ard son of Bela who is recorded to be the ancestor of the Ardites, an clan whose history is otherwise unrecorded. The name means in Hebrew "I shall subdue."

abbreviation used is "Ard." This suggests that "Ard" was short for a name beginning with the letter "A" such as Arden.

It may be that the compiler(s) of this list thought that "Ard" was short for something but did not know what it was. Equally, it could simply be an error on the part of the compiler or the printer.

William's wife and Ard's mother was the former Mary Virgil, of Montrose, Pennsylvania. Charles V. Browning, residing in Hereford, Pennsylvania at the time of Ard's passing, was Ard's younger brother by two years, living from 1871-1957 (he must have also been born in Chicago, as clearly evidenced by Hereford, preceded by Mrs. O'Leary's cow!). What an ideal subject for an interview he would have been! Did Charles know of his brother's stroll hand-in-hand with the Queen of Coins, the goddess Numisma, or was he just somewhat aware that Ard had written a "coin book"? Coinversely, did Charles receive an inscribed deluxe interleaved copy, and furthermore, was an aged William or Mary the proud recipient of a book? Considering that a few of the deluxe issue have perennially gone unaccounted for, this scenario, while speculative of course, is a plausible worthy contender as an answer to this ongoing conundrum. Furthermore, the 1925 edition itself, standard and deluxe (priced at six dollars and fifteen dollars) were both available for a long while after publication, as copies of each were

still being offered by Wayte Raymond in the April, 1929 issue of *The Numismatist*.

Their "on-time" availability and distribution is well-attested to by the renowned September 18, 1926 inscribed standard copy from Browning to B. Max Mehl. Therefore, Ard had a "relatively" long span of time to have possibly sent out "complimentaries."

In a bit of happenstance and *Early Quarter Dollars* "Whimsy," Browning's death certificate lists his undertaker as one Elizabeth E. McBreen, capriciously played out here as the original "Browning/Breen" (Ard would surely have appreciated a legitimate touch of levity later drawn from research!). One last far-reaching entry, a generative hive of compelling leads in the Central Islip death certificate, hastening another immediate breakthrough on the history of our friend/mystery man, our wanderer — "place of burial, cremation, or removal" was written in as "Palm Cemetery, Palm, Pa."

The village of Palm, in Southeastern Pennsylvania, 67 years and one lucky telephone call away! Upon phoning the aptly-termed information operator for Palm, and requesting the number of the library or any local church, the number given was an inspired connection to a part-time church secretary and full-time Guardian Angel, the resident answer to this petitioner's prayer! Enter Nadine Morris, resourceful and a willing hand, upholding an inherent sense of

good fellowship and posterity, the now former Secretary of the Palm Schwenkfelder Church, recently having taken a full-time secular position. As she kindly related, the Schwenkfelder Church was founded by Caspar Schwenckfeld von Ossig of Silesia, a contemporary of Martin Luther. The members traditionally refer to themselves as "Schwenkfelders." An Associate Member of the United Church of Christ, the Church is composed of approximately 3,000 members in five congregations located in southeastern Pennsylvania: Palm, Norristown, Lansdale, Worcester (Central), and Philadelphia; and each church has a churchyard and cemetery.

Could that hope-against-hope indiscriminate morning call to Palm, "on the first try," haphazardly requesting a connection to "the library or any church, please," actually culminate in the off-chance discovery of Browning's final resting place? Did the Schwenkfelders and their Church Secretary really hold the key to our long-lost author? Personal familiarity suggested a more metropolitan notion, such as a Methodist church, a Baptist church, perhaps a Catholic, Presbyterian, Episcopalian, or Lutheran church.

This kind of "Schwenkfelder" thing usually just doesn't happen, doesn't pan out, and, anyhow, what of the public, non-denominational "Palm Cemetery" inscribed on the death certificate? But, no, the

Secretary patiently made clear that no specific Palm Cemetery as written existed, that in fact, early on, the Schwenkfelder Church cemetery was effectively the Palm cemetery, and, meanwhile, writing down this seeker's phone number and address, stating that she would happily be of assistance if possible. "Thank you for your help and your offer of further assistance, and please call if anything or anyone shows up. Good-bye."

Off to the bathroom to shave, and five minutes into shaving the telephone rings and rings again — it just could not be, not something this perfect, but, Ard's stars, it was! The caller, Nadine Morris, 20 minutes earlier a stranger, and now an associate! Noting June 25, 1999 ... after immediately consulting the cemetery plot chart, she went into the churchyard — and there, awaiting, right outside the church, just like that, was the grave and marble memorial stone bearing the telltale dates "1869-1933," and the "impossible" name, a seemingly impossible dream, "Ard W. Browning"!

Unexpectedly, alongside of Ard were the graves and memorial stones of brother Charles V. Browning and his wife Annie L. Browning (1875-1943) — the entire generation of the family! Helen, the daughter of Charles and Annie (and the niece of Uncle Ard) is also at rest there along with her husband Lloyd Kratz. She was born on February 12, 1905, and died on September 23, 1977. Helen and Lloyd had no children, leaving us sans any

possible family reminiscences of Ard. In 66 years, the fates had apparently declined to direct even one student of numismatics or knowledgeable buff through that relatively small churchyard!

Figuratively, the tomb seals were broken at last, and now the corroborative death certificate, along with the initial census sheet and card, that single "bone," were joined by the very bones of our noble and his family ... Ard was back home. Church Secretary/paleontologist Nadine Morris was forevermore the Mary Leakey of Palm! Her careful review of Schwenkfelder Church records then verified that neither Ard, Charles, Annie, Helen or Lloyd had ever been Church members — the Schwenkfelders, named after one who had fled from religious persecution in Europe, had a quiet place for the Brownings, their neighbors.

The following week, upon request, color photographs of the gravesites were graciously sent, accompanied by a descriptive letter and a postcard size photograph of the church. Then one final inquiry, and, with the kind assistance of a 90-something former Editor, Nadine uncovered yet another document, another "bone," a photocopied page from the Friday, June 2, 1933 issue of the greater area *Town And Country* newspaper, with an obituary:

Ard Browning, formerly of East Greenville, died in Long Island Hospital (sic, sick), New York.

Funeral services were held Saturday afternoon at the Dimmig Funeral (sic) Home, East Greenville. Interment took place in the Palm Schwenkfelder cemetery. Rev. Lester K. Kriebel officiated. Funeral Director William H. Dimmig, of East Greenville, had charge. One brother, Charles Browning, of Hereford, survives.

Thusly, Ard was laid to rest. *Early Quarter Dollars* was conspicuously absent from mention in his hometown obituary.

"Formerly of East Greenville" ... once upon a time his hometown, laughing with the friendly faces of fellow townsmen — Ard W. Browning was seemingly active and well-regarded, hardly anonymous, when residing there, prior to his later life, his tenure, his secret, as an employee/resident at Central Islip. What line of work, other than stenography, might he have followed in East Greenville? Where else might he have lived, if anywhere else, in his younger days, before New York City and various addresses there, with his membership in the New York Numismatic Club, beginning in 1914, and, eventually, on to his hospital avocation, then 1925, and *The Early Quarter Dollars Of The United States*?

Charles had been a loving brother, evidently keeping contact, then tending after Ard, arranging for his body to be brought back home for burial in a special place, a serene spot, also chosen, in turn, for himself and Annie.

Reflectively, the aforementioned prospect of that

inscribed, deluxe interleaved copy is indeed quite possible, in fact probable. And just perhaps, might the East Greenville library or an institution nearby, hold a hometown treasure once sent from P.O. Box 539?

Parents William and Mary would have been proud of both their sons, and being from Montrose, Mary most likely influenced and effected their residency in Pennsylvania. The year 1933 is rapidly becoming more and more distant now in the year 2000 ... fifty miles and yet a world away from both Philadelphia and 1933, nary a Browning is living today in East Greenville, Hereford or Palm.

"The passing along of his genes"⁸ — it has been mused that, true, all life is generated by that primal impulse, for offspring, and, that among us mortals, this end might be accomplished either by having children or by publishing a work everlasting. Ard W. Browning, a man formerly unknown to that furthest extent that his very existence was debatable, amid whispers that the name itself may have been a nom de plume, an imaginative creation, and "leaving no trace of the history of the work,"⁹ with each new scrap of possible evidence

weighed — that real Ard W. Browning, that giant, arose to contribute "the most perfect numismatic book written on the first try."¹⁰ The *Early Quarter Dollars Of The United States* has spoken volumes for the otherwise silent Ard, "enlivening a 'feel' and a sense of uniformity for scholars and collectors, creating access to the particulars of Bust Quarters."¹¹

Those very rare 1925 originals of the book and the unique photographic glass negatives of the plates, Browning's own direct link to himself, have taken on a mystique, a life, parallel to the enshrouded author. The words landmark, celebrated, vibrant and wellspring all reach their full impact, readily coming to mind, while simply holding a copy in hand, and he appears to be "happening" within the pages! "The Word" in its field, an original Browning exceeds in sheer wonder even its own groundbreaking and definitive content ...

And so, in the twilight of his journey, while following an avocation and a "star," Central Islip State Hospital was a destination ... and the enlightener Ard W. Browning, the "Edison" of *Early Quarter Dollars*, is among his fellows, home with us today.¹²

⁸ Herkowitz (1997), p.11.

⁹ Davis (1992), p.28.

¹⁰ Davis (1995), p.51, lot. 1102, quoting Walter Breen.

¹¹ C.R. Herkowitz, "Another Browning, another poetry ... in celebration of a book," *The Numismatist* 105 (1992), p.386.

¹² Special thanks to my good friend George F. Kolbe for his most valued assistance in helping to put together this work.

The Printer's Devil: William Gowans and the First U.S. Auctions of Numismatic Literature

By Joel J. Orosz

Numismatic discoveries, at least in the bibliomania line, often seem to be made more by serendipity than by strategy. A case in point is the discovery of not one, but three public auctions of numismatic literature that push back, by nine years, the date of the earliest known sales in the United States in which numismatic literature played a major rôle. The discovery of these auctions came about not because of brilliant detective work, but rather due to a chance encounter and a little luck. In any case, this find proves (at least for now) that the honor of conducting the first such public sale belongs not to any coin dealer, nor even to a noted auction house, but rather to William Gowans, one of the great antiquarian booksellers of nineteenth century America.

Numismatists of the late twentieth century remember Gowans dimly, if at all, for his involvement in the sale of the great antiquarian aggregation of John Allan (1777-1863), an omnivorous collector of many things, including coins. After Allan passed away, his multifaceted collection of books, coins, guns, watches, and many other items was catalogued by Joseph Sabin (one of Gowans' main competitors in the book selling line),

and sold by Bangs, Merwin & Company on May 2, 1864. After the sale, Gowans compiled the prices realized and the buyers' names for all 5,278 lots, and in 1865, Joel Munsell (one of America's premier publishers) printed 400 copies of this list, intended to be bound with the Sabin catalogue of the Allan collection. Gowans made sure buyers got their money's worth by prefacing this publication with both an "Introduction" and an "Appendix" covering between them ten and one half pages of small type. The catalogue of the Allan collection, and Gowans' prices and names compilation, are both obscure bits of numismatic Americana; rare indeed is the numismatic bibliophile today who would recognize the name of William Gowans.

In Gowans' own lifetime, however, it was a different story. Benson J. Lossing, the historian who became the first honorary member of the American Numismatic Society, was a steady customer. Dr. William C. Prime, the numismatist who wrote the book *Coins, Medals and Seals, Ancient and Modern* in 1861, was also a ready buyer, and he remembered Gowans' shop in an article titled "Old Books in New York" published in *Harper's New Monthly*

Magazine for February of 1872.

The stock was probably the largest of the kind in the world. We do not know of any such accumulation elsewhere, although we have examined many of the great collections in the hands of booksellers. There were many more valuable collections, but none so large, and probably none so wholly without arrangement. The stock was contained in a Nassau Street building, on the first floor, the basement, and a sub-cellar. The floors were nearly two hundred feet in depth from front to rear. Originally the sides were shelved to the ceiling, and two rows of tables ran down the length of the first floor. But as the stock increased it was piled, first on tables, then on the floors, until the mass of books was everywhere impenetrable, except by narrow alleys running here and there, and at length the piles began to topple over and fall into the alleys, so that the careless investigator was likely to tread on books at every step. The basement was a wonder. There was no gas, and the trusted customer who was permitted to search in its gloomy recesses was furnished with a kerosene lamp having no chimney, and casting a dim, flaring light on vast piles lying in confusion everywhere, and which, in several parts of the long room, were not less than ten or fifteen feet in thickness. Of course thousands of books were buried out of sight in these masses, and the owner himself knew little of what he possessed in his great catacombs

... but, for all that, there were treasures in that Nassau Street cellar which were worth hunting after, though it was work to hunt for them. It was like excavating an old ruins. One could never tell what would turn up, and now and then it was startling to see the jewels that came out of the heap (page 386).

Indeed, Gowans was both a fire hazard and a bookseller of mammoth proportions. For many years he occupied a shop at 178 Fulton Street, just across Broadway and one block south of P.T. Barnum's great American Museum. The crowds which thronged the famous showman's exhibits could, and did, find their way into Gowans' shop. Enough did so that, after his death, he was deemed important enough to be included in the *Dictionary of American Biography*.

As it turns out, Gowans was known by another notable numismatist of the era, Charles Ira Bushnell. This fact is established by the appearance of a copy of Bushnell's *An Historical Account of the First Three Business Tokens Issued in the City of New York* (1859), inscribed to Gowans by the author. This association piece appeared as Lot 55 of The Money Tree's auction on November 27, 1999. The inscription, which appears on the cover, reads, "William Gowans Esq. with the Compliments of the Author." This information suggests that Bushnell was probably a customer of Gowans, and possibly a friend as well. All inscriptions of this sort, however, leave bibliophiles unsure

whether the author wrote the words, or whether the recipient wrote them as a sort of record of the gift. In this case, we can eliminate the author; Bushnell's known authentic signature was distinctively tall and florid, while the handwriting on the cover is conventionally sized and rounded. Clearly then, Bushnell made a gift of the book, but did not personally inscribe it.

Still, the Bushnell connection, coupled with the prime description and the Allan price list, suggested that Gowans may have played a rôle of numismatic significance during his lifetime.

Further investigation turned up a copy of the fourth annual Sol M. Malkin lecture, delivered by Roger E. Stoddard, the curator of rare books at the Harvard University library. The title was, *Put a Resolute Hart to a Steep Hill: William Gowans, Antiquary and Bookseller*. Veteran bibliophiles will remember Mr. Malkin (1910-1986) as the founder and long-time editor of *A.B. Bookman's Weekly*. In Stoddard's capable hands, the Malkin lecture becomes an interesting story of Gowans' rise from impoverished immigrant to bookselling bashaw.

Gowans had colorful associations (including a stint of eight months as a fellow-boarder with Edgar Allen Poe), and a relentless will to succeed. On March 29, 1828, he opened a street vendor's bookstall in New York City, and built it into the mammoth omnium gatherum of books described by Dr. Prime.

He died the death of a true bibliophile, on November 23, 1870, after a full day of cataloging new acquisitions at his store. Every bookseller in New York City closed his shop for Gowans' funeral as a mark of respect. The dispersal of the gargantuan Gowans stock at public auction required 16 sales spanning more than a year, consisting of 60,520 lots (many of which contained multiple books) on 2,476 pages, and these 16 auctions occurred after his executors sold eight tons of his stock for waste paper at four and one quarter cents per pound. Joseph Sabin, his chief competitor, was utterly dismissive in his assessment of this minor mountain of literature: "The immense stock of the late Mr. William Gowans did not include any book of special value."

Roger Stoddard's research, however, gives the lie to that assessment, at least insofar as numismatic bibliophiles are concerned. In his listing of public auction sales conducted by Gowans, Stoddard includes no fewer than three in which numismatic literature played a prominent (indeed marquee) rôle, and all were dated prior to 1844. It should be mentioned, before going any further, that books about coins have been sold at public auctions in the United States since at least the Pierre Eugène DuSimitière sale in 1785. These sales, however, consisted of a handful of numismatic titles in a much larger auction of other items. It has been widely assumed that the first public

sale to contain a significant number of books about coins (16 to be exact), was the auction of the estate of Dr. Lewis Roper, held in Philadelphia on February 20-21, 1851. Stoddard's research dethrones the Roper sale, for he demonstrated that Gowans held no fewer than three auctions in 1842 and 1843 that actually included numismatic literature in the title of the catalogue.

The three are as follows: (1) Gowans Catalogue No. 4: *A Catalogue of an Uncommon Collection of Very Curious & Unique Old English and Foreign Books, of Emblems, Coins, Medals, Heraldry, Illustrated Books of Travel & Antiquities, Treatises on the Fine Arts, Scottish Poetry, History, & Antiquities, Standard Old English Dramatic Works, Many of the Classics, Both in Original & Translated ... All of Which Will Be Sold by Auction by Royal Gurley at the New York Long Room, No. 169 Broadway, on ... February 17 & 18, 1842 ... New-York: C. Vinten Catalogue Printer, 63 Vesey Street near Greenwich. According to Stoddard, the catalogue has 32 pages and 710 lots, and is McKay 327.*

(2) Gowans' Catalogue No. 6: *Catalogue of an Uncommon Collection of Very Curious and Unique Old English and Foreign Books of Emblems, Coins, Medals, Heraldry, Illustrated Books of Travels and Antiquities, Treatises on the Fine Arts, & c. Also, About fifty Volumes of Standard Law Books, Recent Editions ... All of Which Will be Sold by Auction, by William Gowans, at the Waverley*

Sales Room, 204 Broadway, (upstairs,) ... Jan'y 10th and 11th, 1842 [hand-corrected to 1843] ... New-York: Vinten Catalogue Printer, 63 Vesey Street. Near Greenwich. According to Stoddard, this catalogue of 26 pages contains 602 lots and is McKay 344.

(3) Gowans' Catalogue No. 7: *A Catalogue of Curious and Unique Black Letter Books, Published Between 1477 & 1505, Many of Them Rubricated, Presenting Beautiful Specimens of Early Typography, also Books on Coins and Emblems, to be Sold at Auction, by William Gowans, at the Waverley Sales Room, 204 Broadway, Upstairs ... May 22, 1834 [i.e., 1843] Stoddard says that this is an eight-page catalogue containing more than 190 unpriced items, McKay 340.*

So February 17-18, 1842 is now the earliest known date of sale in the United States for a significant collection of numismatic literature. Just whose library (or libraries) these sales represented, however, is not known. The obvious suspects — Robert Gilmor, Jr., Philip Hone, Joseph J. Mickley, and Matthew Stickney — all lived past the 1842-1843 timeframe of these three sales. The wide-ranging subject matter, with some concentration on Scotland, suggests that John Allan may have been the source, but he too lived on long after 1842-43. Perhaps a more important question is, "Who bought the books thus offered?" Again, the answer is not known, although Charles Ira Bushnell is certainly one sus-

pect. In any case, to William Gowans clearly belongs the honor, at least for the present, of being the first in the field of selling numismatic literature in the United States.

Stoddard's work also pinpoints the identity of the person who signed the copy of Bushnell's *An Historical Account of the First Three Business Tokens Issued in the City of New York*. Stoddard relates that Gowans never learned to spell properly, and employed his general amanuensis, Edward W. Nash, to inscribe his correspondence and write out his bibliographical notes. From a sample of Nash's handwriting reproduced on page 50 of Stoddard's "Put a Resolute Hart to a Steep Hill," it appears clear that it was Nash, not Gowans, who inscribed Gowans' copy of Bushnell's *An Historical Account*.

If Gowans did not leave his mark on that booklet, however, he did leave a mark on American numismatics. True, that mark

has been largely invisible up until now, but it was there nonetheless. What that Scottish immigrant bibliophilic pack-rat did was to hold the first three public auctions in the United States in which numismatic literature was a headline item. Literally hundreds of such sales have followed since, but it was Gowans who got the ball rolling, and he deserves to be remembered for it.

One horrifying thought remains, however, to be considered. Of that eight tons of Gowans' stock sold for wastepaper by his executors, just how many titles might have gone to the pulping mill which today's numismatic bibliophile would lust to own? No list was kept, so we will never know. Perhaps it is better simply to concentrate on the many good things that Gowans left behind, especially those groundbreaking numismatic literature sales held during the administration of John Tyler.

Erratum:

Due to an error in the editing/production process, the last line in the final paragraph of John and Nancy Wilson's "Over Printed Coin Show Red Books and Mr. Yeo," in the Summer 2000 issue (pp.89-90), was omitted. The full paragraph should read:

Yeoman served on the ANA board of governors from 1946 to 1951 and was a very positive force in the hobby. He received a number of national awards for his outstanding contributions to numismatics. In 1952 he received the ANA Medal of Merit and in 1957 was awarded the ANA's highest award -- the Ferran Zerbe. In 1964 he was appointed to the U.S. Assay Commission by President Lyndon Johnson.

The editor regrets any confusion this may have caused the readers.

Complete Your Collection

No numismatic bibliophile's library is complete without an extensive run of *The Asylum*. Below are listed all of the back issues which are currently available. Better hurry, some are in short supply and you'll want to fill those holes in your collection at reasonable prices

| | | | |
|-----------|-----------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Vol. II | Nos. 1, 2 | Vol. X | No. 1 |
| Vol. III | Nos. 1, 2, 3/4 | Vol. XI | Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 |
| Vol. IV | Nos. 1, 3, 4 | Vol. XII | Nos. 2, 3, 4 |
| Vol. V | Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 | Vol. XIII | Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 |
| Vol. VI | Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 | Vol. XIV | Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 |
| Vol. VII | Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 | Vol. XV | Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 |
| Vol. VIII | Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 | Vol. XVI | Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 |
| Vol. IX | Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 | Vol. XVII | Nos. 2, 3, 4 |

All issues are \$5.00 each (including postage).
Photocopies of out of print issues are also available
at the same price.

Make all checks or money orders payable to "Numismatic Bibliomania Society" and send to:

David Hirt
Secretary-Treasurer
Numismatic Bibliomania Society
5911 Quinn Orchard Road
Frederick, MD 21704

**FINE
NUMISMATIC
BOOKS
ANY LANGUAGE
ANY PERIOD
ALWAYS WANTED**


SPINK
founded 1666

69 SOUTHAMPTON ROW BLOOMSBURY,
LONDON WC1B 4ET. TEL: 020 7563 4000
FAX: 020 7563 4066 <http://www.spink-online.com>